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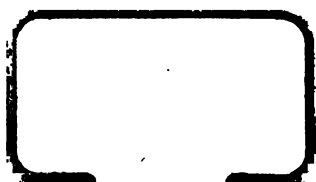
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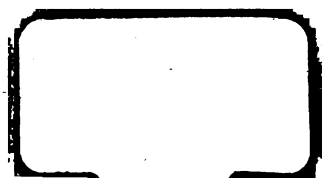


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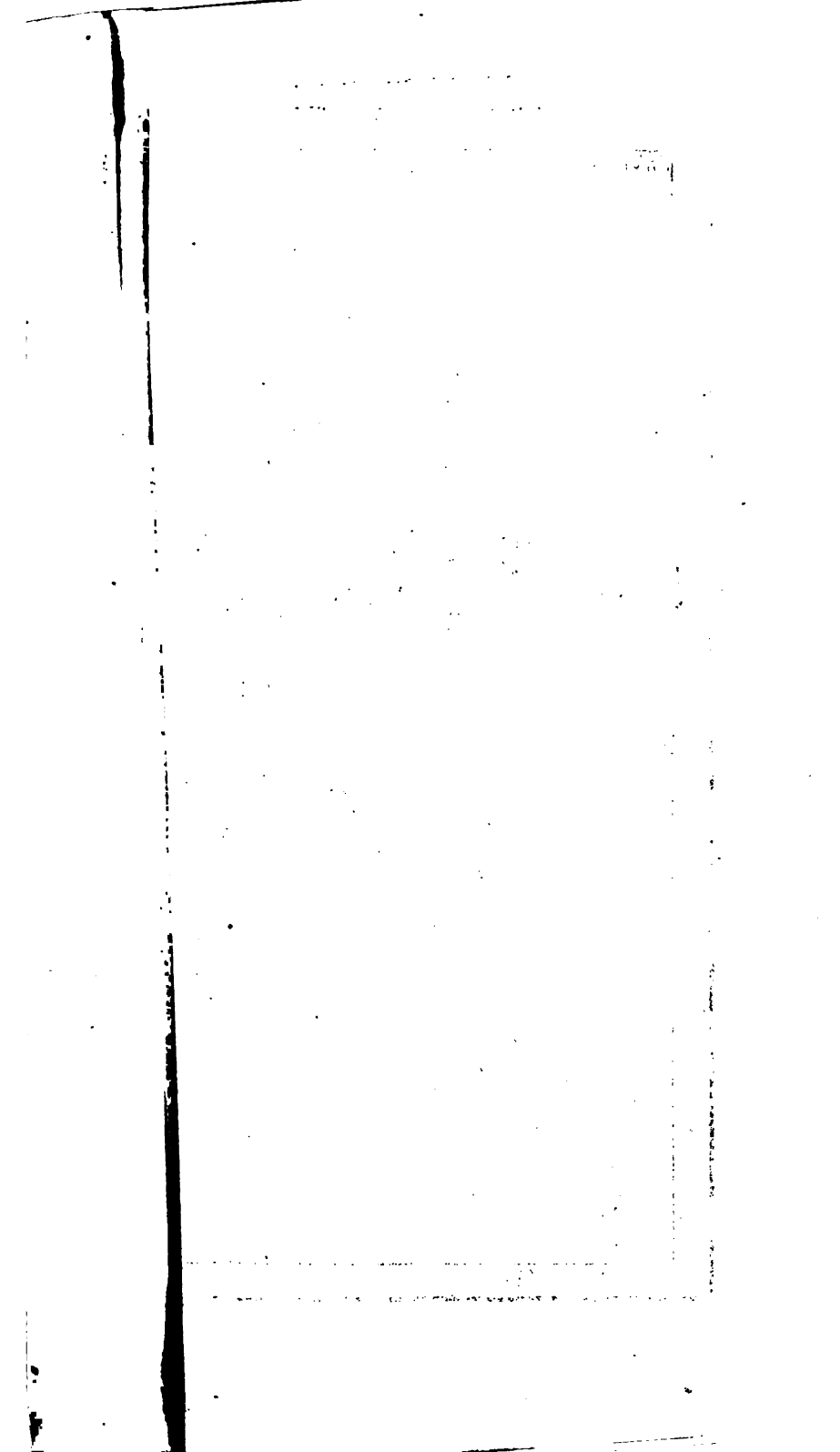
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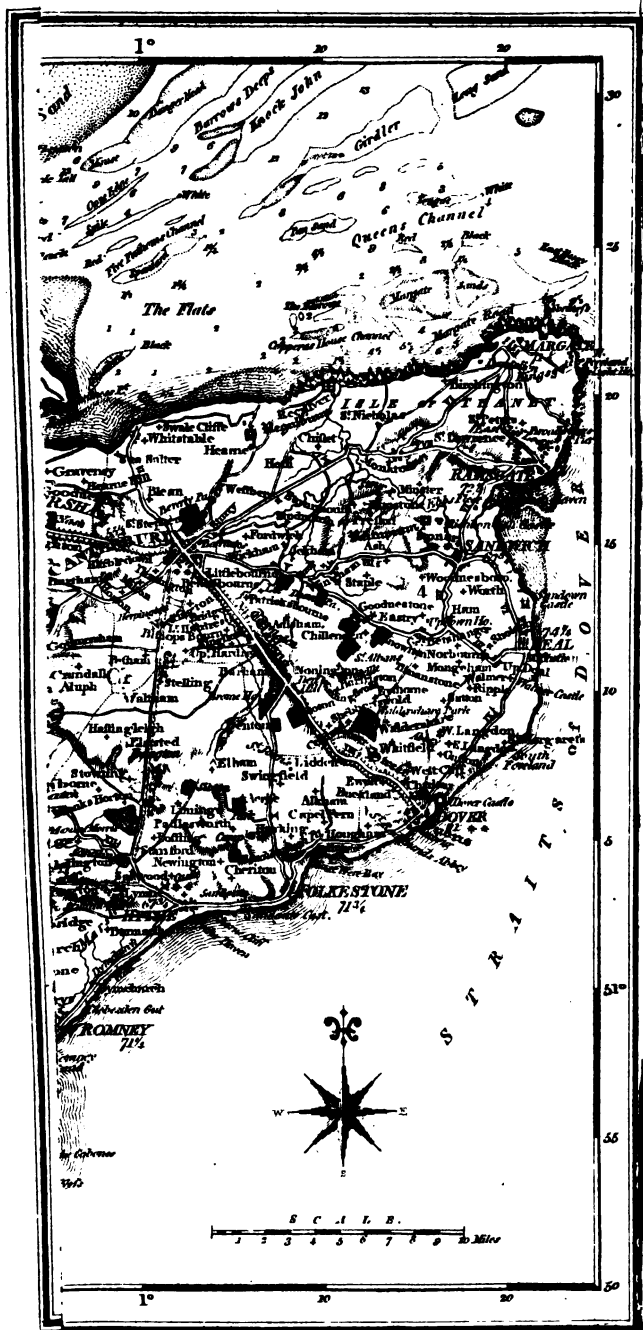


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A
JOURNEY
ROUND
THE COAST OF KENT;

CONTAINING
REMARKS

ON THE
PRINCIPAL OBJECTS

WORTHY OF NOTICE THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE OF THAT
INTERESTING BORDER, AND THE CONTIGUOUS DISTRICT;

INCLUDING
PENSURST, AND TUNBRIDGE-WELLS;

WITH
RYE, WINCHELSEA, HASTINGS, AND BATTLE, IN SUSSEX:

BEING
ORIGINAL NOTES
MADE DURING A SUMMER EXCURSION.

WITH A MAP.

I draw fresh air, and Nature's works admire.

DRYDEN.

BY
L. FUSSELL, ESQ.

LONDON:
PUBLISHED BY BALDWIN, CRADOCK, AND JOY,
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1818.

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ERRATUM.

P. 157. For Chap. XIX. read Chap. XVII.

A

JOURNEY,

&c.

INTRODUCTION.

THE following description of the principal objects of curiosity and attention in that part of the county of Kent which borders on the sea-coast, and which, together with the contiguous district, it has of late years become fashionable to visit during the summer months, is designed not merely as an assistant to those who are induced by business or leisure to inspect that interesting portion of the island, but especially for the benefit of the juvenile traveller, to whom an excursion may be rendered a source of improvement, as well as of pleasure and amusement.

“All travel,” says the great moralist, “has its advantages. If the passenger visits better countries, he may learn to improve his own; and if fortune carries him to worse, he may learn to enjoy it. Far from me and my friends be such frigid philosophy as may conduct us, indifferent and unmoved, over any ground which has been dignified by wisdom, bravery, and virtue:” and adding, with matchless pathos, “whose heart would not beat high when he

treads on the plains of Marathon? whose piety would not grow warm amidst the ruins of Ióna?"

A classical tour through England would abundantly confirm the sentiments of the sage; and amongst the vast variety of interesting and elaborate publications on subjects connected with British topography, it is not a little surprising that scarcely any one has hitherto appeared, which, combining accuracy of description with fidelity of historical relation, is at the same time calculated for the perusal of that class of readers who most stand in need of information.

Travelling, as the means of improving health, is sometimes highly necessary as well as desirable; and, as a pleasing indulgence, would more frequently be allowed to fill up a portion of that time in which it is usual to relax from the fatigues of study as well as of business, if it were not too commonly found to indispose the mind for receiving instruction. In some degree to remove this objection, and to afford to the visitors of the *Kentish* coast an opportunity of placing in the hands of the junior members of their families a concise view of the principal objects worthy of attention there; "to teach the young idea how to shoot," and to gratify rational curiosity, as well as encourage and promote those studies, of which it may be truly said that *they constitute the main springs of human happiness*, is the design of the present undertaking.

Many ordinary incidents, and many obvious remarks, may therefore be found to occupy the place of learned discussion. To lead others to make their

own reflections; to draw their own conclusions; to elicit knowledge by diligence of research; and to accustom the mind to trace events to their causes, and examine the relationship between cause and effect, will be the endeavour of the writer, who offers himself as a monitor rather than a guide, and will be satisfied with the praise of fidelity in the condition of an humble companion, without assuming the higher character of a teacher.

CHAPTER I.

Reflections.

THERE are various customs in different countries arising from the peculiar temper of the inhabitants, and influenced by climate and other circumstances, which are so difficult to be corrected or eradicated, that such customs may be said to become naturalized. To strangers and foreigners they appear absurd, and even ridiculous; not that they are always really so, but because of the incapacity of such persons to understand their origin, and for want of a competent knowledge of the genius of the people. Thus the idiom of a language can be perfectly understood by those only who are well acquainted with the customs and manners, the sciences and arts, in the country to whose inhabitants it belongs; for terms of art must often be used in a vague, uncertain, and incorrect manner by those who are unaccustomed to the objects which such terms are intended to describe. Hence arise innumerable errors and misconceptions amongst writers, as well as travellers, and they become liable to the charge of want of fidelity in their relation of incidents and description of places, through ignorance rather than inattention.

The prejudices called *national* are usually so firmly rooted in the mind as scarcely to be capable

of complete removal. They are often cherished as virtues deserving praise and worthy of imitation, and believed to afford proofs of wisdom and philanthropy, instead of being the effects of folly, obstinacy, and illiberality. That this is a correct statement will immediately be seen, by comparing the sentiments of the travelled and well-educated person with the notions of the rustic whose intercourse with society has been confined within narrow limits, and whose opportunities of forming a just estimate of men and manners have been proportionably few. In the latter, every *new* object excites a mingled sensation of astonishment and uneasiness; and almost every object presented to him on going abroad into the world is *new*. Every thing seems *strange*, and every *strange thing* seems objectionable. To the mere *John Bull* (a character in some particulars highly respectable, but commonly derided by the appellation) every production of every country upon earth, excepting his own, appears almost, if not altogether, contemptible. He is unwilling to improve, because he disdains to alter. But the man of the world thinks more liberally; he has too much candour not to allow common sense to his neighbours, his rivals, and even his enemies; and can often discover more to admire and to imitate than to censure or despise, in that which offends or disgusts those who are less ingenuous or less enlightened. His improvement is therefore proportionably more rapid and more extensive. He travels to collect information, to enlarge the sphere of his usefulness and benevolence, to correct personal vanity,

and subdue vulgar prejudices. He dares to think for himself; but thinks with freedom and not with arrogance. He despises the rod of captious criticism and the sneers of sarcasm. He will not bow down to the despotism of pedantry, but taking truth and reason for his guide, and philosophy and good-humour for his companions, pursues a steady course, ever desirous of increasing his knowledge without adding to his pride; and imitating the industrious bee, which seeks from every weed, as well as every flower, an addition to its prudent store:

“*Floriferis ut apes in saltibus omnia libant
Omnia nos itidem!*”

CHAP. II.

Environs of London.

A CERTAIN foreign ambassador, who made his entrée into the British metropolis late at night, is said to have been so much struck with the brilliant appearance of the lamps, that he supposed a general illumination had taken place to welcome his arrival. When his Excellency had been undeceived, and made to understand that the extensive avenues and crowded streets through which he passed, glittered every evening with equal splendour, there can be no doubt respecting the impression which his mind received of the opulence and magnificence of the capital of the country. Every foreigner has eyes as well as the ambassador, and must in like manner have felt the emotions of admiration and astonishment, upon first witnessing a display of elegance calculated to produce a comparison between so showy and convenient a method of imitating the blaze of day, and the clumsy suspension of a lantern upon a rope thrown across the street, which, in defiance of accidents and danger, is still practised in many of the most distinguished cities of France, Spain, Portugal, and Holland. Yet neither the accidents, nor the danger, nor the comparison, have been sufficient to provoke imitation, and each nation and country adheres to its old habit and continues to prefer it—*because it is national*. In like manner the mode of warming rooms by portable stoves, liable to be overturned every moment, and to

set the house in a blaze, is considered the most comfortable and the most elegant method of effecting the object desired, by those who are perfectly well acquainted with safer, more effectual, and more wholesome contrivances. In France, it may be remarked, without writing sarcastically, that the use of *not accurately clean* fingers is pretty generally preferred to that of a knife, and thought to evince more delicacy and refinement than the practice of the English. It is also probable that the same predilection for their own customs occasions the rude entertainments of the Africans to be considered by themselves more correct models of true taste and elegance, than the splendid festivities of Carlton House and the Thuilleries. In one country the tables of luxury and affluence are loaded with a thousand delicacies at once: the eye is lost in their number and variety; and custom more than appetite impels the destruction of fabrics, which seem to have exhausted the most exquisite fancy in their formation and arrangement. In another, the entertainment is protracted by a single dish only being presented at a time; and, in each, its own peculiar custom is regarded as the most elegant: but let it be remembered always, that matters in themselves indifferent acquire importance by the stress laid upon them; and that fashion, however absurd and inconsistent in her operations, is then only to be altogether despised, when productive of strife or malevolence, or allowed to usurp the place of reason and philosophy.

In travelling as in every thing else, custom has established rules which, although they might be dis-

pensed with, advantageously, would subject him who ventured to infringe them, to the imputation of caprice and singularity. Without risk of such imputation the advice of an elegant writer may be cited—and his recommendation to his countrymen not to be content with any thing short of nature's own volume, in every page of which she presents something for us to admire or to imitate, something which although repeatedly admired, and described already, will incessantly supply new materials for description and fresh sources of improvement.—Let us now proceed on a

JOURNEY INTO KENT.

It is almost impossible to quit the noise and bustle and smoke of London, however long accustomed to them, without feeling a sort of inward satisfaction, and buoyancy and volatility of spirits, as we begin to breathe a purer air. Even whilst that dense exhalation which envelopes "the rank city" still hovers over us, and obscures the prospects of the surrounding country, and the anxious look and hurrying step which characterize the busy inhabitants of the town are still observable in every passenger, the contrast between an eternal din of human voices and the ceaseless rattling of wheels upon the pavement, and the silence and tranquillity for which they are exchanged, cannot fail to excite a pleasing calm which fits us for contemplating the various objects of curiosity which arise in quick succession on all sides.

It is not without exultation that an Englishman looks around upon the various manufactories, and the

several public edifices, which on every road leading to this vast capital present themselves to his notice. Volumes might be filled, as volumes have been already written, descriptive of these several objects of curiosity and utility. Whithersoever we turn our eyes, the importance and wealth of a commercial country can not fail to excite admiration. Within the compass of a few years almost innumerable have been the additions to those stupendous works of ingenuity, in which all the powers of mechanism seem to have been rendered subservient to the industry of man. Amongst them, in the direction by which we commence our proposed excursion, must not be omitted that beautiful and stupendous work of modern art, the new cast-iron bridge over the Thames near Vauxhall, an undertaking of such magnificence of design and grandeur and correctness of execution, as to demand the highest praise. Thus the source of national safety and national prowess during a period of hostility,—the iron manufacture, has been converted not only into the useful means of giving employment and bread to thousands in time of peace, but rendered essentially conducive to the credit and fame of our country. Henceforth may peaceful arts engage our attention, long may they flourish; and, fostered by the munificence of a wise and enlightened prince, continually advance and increase the happiness of a people whose bravery in war justly entitles them to the full enjoyment of freedom and security, now the clangor of arms is no longer heard!

Connected with this remark, a glance at that noble asylum of veteran valour, CHELSEA HOSPITAL, will

give rise to a sentiment of honest pride and virtuous patriotism. There the heroes of Salamanca and of Waterloo, consoled by the liberality of a grateful country for their wounds and sufferings, quietly repose after the arduous toils of military duty. There enfeebled age finds friendly assistance and generous provision; whilst in a neighbouring establishment the children of our brave defenders are benevolently cherished and instructed, and the wants of infancy liberally supplied.

Near these interesting objects, a pleasing contrast to the gloomy and tremendous prison lately erected at Millbank, we also descry the forsaken and deserted spot, where formerly stood that paragon of elegance, taste, and gaiety, the Rotunda of Ranelagh. A dismal avenue is all that now remains of that celebrated place of entertainment; and even the irregularities of the ground, which point out the site once occupied by the building, will in a few years cease to remind the traveller of the transient gratifications sought by the young and the voluptuous in those Paphian regions. But Ranelagh, the favourite of princes, has only yielded in turn to the common fate of the proud beauty, who, when the bloom of youth is faded, loses all her admirers, is deserted and forsaken! Like the proud beauty too, her charms once decayed are irrecoverable: and although the site is highly favourable for building, and might be rendered equally commodious for domestic or commercial purposes, it has during many years continued in a state of wild and melancholy desolation, which seems to whisper to the spectator, "What once was Ranelagh!"

In the vicinity are placed those immense engines belonging to the Chelsea water-works, which have been rebuilt, and on a much improved plan, and more extensive scale, than before they were removed to their present site. The canals, sluices, and inlets from the Thames, its perfectly level bank, and the mills and ranges of willows, give the spot a singular appearance, and altogether present quite a Dutch view.

A little farther up the river, and near the landing place of approach to Ranelagh, is still remaining a square summer-house or pavilion, plainly but substantially built with brick on the verge of the Thames, and contiguous to the gardens of Chelsea Hospital, in which building King Charles II. frequently entertained his gay courtiers, and where occasionally, it is said, he held a council. The structure although sufficiently spacious for a convivial party in those days, and elegant enough for the merry monarch and his witty guests, would now scarcely be deemed fit even for a butler's pantry! Near the spot are now growing two majestic cedar trees, reputed to have been brought from Mount Lebanon, and planted by the hand of the celebrated naturalist Sir Hans Sloane.

An avenue of umbrageous elms skirts the water's edge in front of a row of houses, which, as well as the walk itself, derive their appellation from another distinguished physician, Dr. Cheyne, who once resided here, was equally distinguished by his moral and medical writings, and celebrated for good humour and corpulence.

Among less conspicuous mansions here stands

Chelsea House, the residence of the venerable Bishop of Winchester. Here too might formerly have been numbered with the curiosities of the place, the famous Don Saltero's coffee house, still a house of entertainment, and possessing its ancient name ; but long since despoiled of the collection which first rendered it fashionable. Pass we, likewise, the scarcely less celebrated habitation of Dr. Dominicetti, whose medicated baths with silver pipes, and a thousand mountebank vagaries, which raised him to more note than estimation at Chelsea, are now almost forgotten ;—and still proceeding along the southern bank of the river, near the brick-built tower of the parish church, recognize within its precincts the simple, chaste, and classical monument of Sloane, a beautifully shaped urn with the Esculapian symbol of the twisted snakes. In the same sacred enclosure is also deposited the headless trunk of the witty and the wise Sir Thomas More, who was an inhabitant of this parish.

In an opposite direction gayer objects attract our notice :—the picturesque wooden bridge leading to Battersea, elegant villas, a fine columnar horizontal mill, the boats on the river, the weeping willows in Lord Cremorne's garden, the copper spire of Battersea church turned green by the corrosion of the atmosphere, the distant plantations at Wimbledon, and numerous appendages to this varied scenery, are such attractions to the eye of taste, that many and many are the vessels on the water which are seen to pause, and many and many the passengers by land observed to linger, as if unwilling to lose sight of them.

If then we appear to proceed but slowly on our journey, let the reader make due allowances. There are plenty and variety of subjects for his contemplation, and he will find ample store of materials in the account of past ages, with which he may fill up this imperfect sketch. Pennant and Lysons will afford him a minute account of every rood of ground in the whole neighbourhood; and Mr. Faulkner, the indefatigable historian of Chelsea, will introduce him to the living and the dead, who are or have been its occupiers.

If a regard for venerable antiquity delights him, here he may trace the *tête-du-pont* of the Romans when they passed the Thames and became masters of the capital. If elegant architecture can excite admiration, an excursion of a few miles will afford a rich assemblage of objects highly worthy of notice. If rural scenery be desired, he will turn towards the Surrey hills, and, leaving the dust and smoke behind him, hasten with alacrity to verdant fields and flowery meads which seem to invite his approach.

The southern bank of the Thames, if it do not rival its opposite in the number and elegance of the buildings with which it is adorned, may at least boast a variety of establishments connected with arts and manufactures, as well as many respectable modern edifices both public and domestic. Of the former buildings, either connected with devotion or charity, it would be superfluous to speak particularly: but the traveller certainly will not pass by them without feeling a glow of satisfaction when he reflects that there is scarcely a condition of human

suffering, or privation, or distress, scarcely "one lurking ill," for which relief or alleviation is not kindly provided. An asylum for female orphans; an hospital for the sick, endowed with princely munificence; an establishment for reclaiming the vicious from the error of their ways; schools for the blind, and the deaf and dumb; and a refuge for the destitute, form only a portion of the catalogue of those institutions which are highly honourable to the benevolence and liberality of the British people: and though last, not least in this resplendent galaxy of charities, that spacious and noble edifice provided for unhappy sufferers under the greatest of human evils, mental derangement, has lately been added to their daily increasing number.

CHAP. III.

Road to Greenwich.—Deptford.

A FLAT and level road to Greenwich presents scarcely an object worthy of particular mention, besides the forest of masts which, from London Bridge to the India Docks at Blackwall, marks the course of the Thames, until we arrive at the crowded town of Deptford. Near this place the Ravensborne, a small stream, after a course of about eight miles from its source at Hayes, crosses the turnpike road within a few yards of the boundary line between Kent and Surrey, and a little farther joins the Thames. This stream appears of so much less importance than the Croydon canal, which forms a line parallel with it, that it reminds us of the remark of Brindley, the celebrated engineer, who, in an examination before the House of Commons, on the subject of inland navigation, and speaking lightly of diverting the course of a river to effect one of his projects, being asked for what purpose he thought rivers created?—replied, “*to feed canals.*” The number and extent of these undertakings, indeed, seem to indicate that Mr. Brindley was not singular in his opinion. It is, however, to be lamented that, notwithstanding the acknowledged advantages which have resulted from them, they do not appear to have rendered provisions cheaper by facilitating conveyance, nor occasioned the roads to be kept in better condition, by relieving them from the effects of wheel carriages.

DEPTFORD

contains few structures which catch the eye of the traveller scarcely emerged from the profusion of buildings in the capital. Its two churches are among the principal objects. One dedicated to St. Nicholas, rebuilt in 1697, and St. Paul's, a modern edifice erected in 1730, the latter being one of the fifty new churches within the bills of mortality. The population having of late years vastly increased, and if not the freedom of religious opinions, at least the disposition and the means to multiply the places of Divine worship having kept pace with the increase, numerous chapels and meeting-houses of various descriptions have also been built by dissenters of several sects and denominations.

The number of labourers and artizans employed in the dock-yard, and in building merchant ships, has in time of war amounted to more than three thousand; but, like the sea-ports and other towns which principally depend upon occupations connected with a state of hostility, Deptford suffers proportionally during peace. The store-houses form a large square; and the King's yard, which contains two spacious wet docks with their proper accompaniments, covers more than thirty acres of ground.

In the history of Deptford it is to be noticed that the corporation of the Trinity House was originally formed for the encouragement of navigation and benefit of mariners, and that the duties of this important association were performed here from its

establishment in the reign of King Henry VIII, until about thirty years ago, when a spacious and elegant building was erected near the Tower of London, in which the business of examining and appointing pilots, erecting and maintaining beacons and light-houses, and improving harbours, &c. has been since conducted.

At Deptford there are still the two hospitals belonging to this fraternity, appropriated for the reception of forty decayed masters and pilots, and forty widows, of persons of the same class, who have salaries assigned to them out of the charity. It is related that on the site of the workhouse of St. Nicholas's parish formerly stood Say's Court, the mansion occupied by Peter the Great, Emperor of Russia, whilst he pursued the romantic scheme of *working as a shipwright in the dock-yard*, in order to become practically acquainted with every thing belonging to marine architecture.

CHAP. IV.

*Greenwich.—Naval Hospital.—Asylum.—
Observatory.—The Park.*

THE beautiful trees in Greenwich Park, the Royal Hospital, the Observatory, and Asylum, arrest the attention of the traveller, who by deviating a little from the direct road may enjoy a most sublime and interesting spectacle in the assemblage of naval veterans (the pensioners), either for the purpose of devotion in their magnificent chapel, or of refection in their noble hall.

GREENWICH

was a favourite royal residence, from the reign of King Henry IV. until the usurpation of Cromwell. The park was originally enclosed by Humphrey (styled *the good*) Duke of Gloucester, who rebuilt the then manor, or mansion house, and erected a turret on the spot now occupied by the Observatory. Edward IV. enlarged the palace. Richard Duke of York solemnized his marriage here with great splendour. Henry VII. resided here. Here also Henry VIII. was born, and celebrated his marriage here with Catherine of Arragon. In 1552 Edward VI. kept his Christmas according to the hospitable fashion of those times, at his manor of Greenwich,

where in the course of the ensuing summer he also died. Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth both drew their native breath in this place, and the ceremonial of the christening of the latter supplied the inimitable Shakespeare with a splendid scene for one of his plays. King Charles I. resided here, and when the crown lands were seized by the Parliament, the manor of Greenwich was especially reserved for the use of the state, so that at the Restoration it again became part of the possessions of the Crown; and, the buildings having fallen into decay, King Charles II. formed the design of erecting a magnificent palace, of which one wing was completed at the expense of about 36,000*l*. His Majesty occasionally resided in it, but no further progress was made in the work, until, it being determined to establish an hospital for the reception of disabled seamen, this edifice was, at the suggestion, it is said, of Sir Christopher Wren, converted to its present most worthy and noble use, and considerably enlarged under the immediate and personal direction of that great architect, who generously contributed his labour, time, and skill, in its completion, without desiring or receiving any pecuniary recompense. The appearance of the building is indeed very grand, and a certain foreigner might well remark, upon comparing Greenwich with St. James's, that the English lodge their cripples in palaces, and their Kings in hospitals. The area or principal quadrangle opening towards the river, which flows close to the terrace in front, is ornamented with a statue of King George II. cut by Rysbrack, out of a single block of white marble,

which was taken on board a French ship, by that gallant Admiral Sir George Rooke.

The hall, which is 106 feet in length, 56 in breadth, and 50 feet high, is painted by Sir James Thornhill, and adorned with well-executed pilasters, trophies, and other splendid ornaments. Portraits of King William and Queen Mary, surrounded by the cardinal virtues, the seasons, the elements, the arts and sciences, the principal rivers of England, &c. decorate the ceiling; and there are also paintings representing the landing of the Prince of Orange at Harwich, and of King George I. at Greenwich, with portraits of other members of the Royal family, and amongst the emblematical figures, the painter Thornhill has ingeniously introduced his own likeness.

In the vestibule leading to the Hall is a model of an antique ship found in the Villa Mattei, and presented by Lord Anson, the circumnavigator: as also the funeral car of the illustrious and immortal NELSON, whose name, dear to every true patriot, recalls to the mind of an Englishman a series of the most brilliant victories which the pen of the historian has ever been employed to record, and an example of which it has been truly said, that "it challenges the history of the world to produce its equal in the ages which are past; and shines like a brilliant constellation, to illumine the generations to come."

The chapel of Greenwich Hospital has been so often described, that it would be impertinent in this place to introduce a minute account of it; at the same time it might justly be attributed to want of taste or want of sensibility, if some of its most

striking beauties were not selected to give an interest to these pages. Amongst them the portal or vestibule with its marble frieze and cornice by Bacon: the highly-ornamented and exquisitely-finished mahogany doors, the Ionic columns, entablature, and balustrade: the paintings in chiaro-scuro of the miracles and sufferings of the Redeemer, the communion table of the most beautiful white marble, and an admirable altar-piece, of the shipwreck of St. Paul are at once so appropriate and so chaste, that they claim the highest praise. The floor paved with marble has in the centre one of the most delicate ornaments ever attempted, in the representation of an anchor and mariners compass, the execution of which is perhaps unparalleled.

The whole of the building, exclusive of spacious and elegant apartments belonging to the governor and other officers, contains accommodations for about 2500 pensioners, and 150 nurses, who are provided with clothing, lodging, and diet. Each pensioner has a weekly allowance of seven loaves of bread, of one pound weight each, three pounds of beef, two pounds of mutton, one pint of peas, one pound and a quarter of cheese, two ounces of butter, fourteen quarts of beer, and one shilling to purchase tobacco. Boatswains receive 2*s.* 6*d.* mates 1*s.* 6*d.* and officers in proportion to their rank, respectively: and each is supplied every two years with a suit of blue cloth, a hat, three pairs of stockings, a pair of shoes, five neck-cloths, three shirts, and two night-caps. The average expense to the country, according to the report of the commissioners of naval inquiry, being

estimated at 27*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.* *per annum*, for each pensioner, and 29*l.* 15*s.* for each nurse; including the yearly wages of 8*l.* allowed to the latter.

The extensive colonnades, which add considerably to the magnificent appearance of the building, afford also a convenient promenade; and the dome and turrets are fine objects in perspective.

In the year 1799 a dreadful fire broke out here, which destroyed the chapel, and several of the adjoining wards, but they were afterwards rebuilt from models by the celebrated traveller commonly known by the appellation of Athenian Stuart.

THE OBSERVATORY,

so deservedly celebrated, was founded by Charles II. and Flamstead commenced his observations in 1676, with a sextant of six feet radius of his own construction, for the express purpose of ascertaining the motions of the moon, and the position of the fixed stars, in order to discover the longitude at sea. Here Flamstead died, and was succeeded by Halley, whose works will preserve his name. Great improvements were made from time to time in the astronomical apparatus. Graham constructed a mural quadrant of eight feet radius, and in the year 1750, under the direction of Dr. Bradley, then astronomer royal, a transit instrument of eight feet in length, a moveable quadrant of forty inches radius, with an astronomical clock, and a Newtonian reflecting telescope, were added to the former instruments. Bliss succeeded Dr. Bradley, but held the

CHAP. V.

Blackheath.—Severn-Droog Castle.—Dartford.

BLACKHEATH, celebrated formerly for being the scene of military reviews, lately for feats of pedestrianism, and always for the beauty and extent of its prospects, is also remarkable for having been the spot on which the Kentish rebel, Wat Tyler, mustered his army of insurgents in the reign of King Richard II.

At an easy distance of only seven miles from the metropolis, and in the vicinity of Greenwich, Woolwich, and Deptford, a situation so eligible for building naturally attracted the notice of opulent traders, whose concerns require their occasional attendance, and whose affluence enables them to indulge in the enjoyment of a country villa. Accordingly the number of neat boxes and whimsically ornamented retreats, for this description of persons, has progressively increased. Many spacious and some splendid mansions have also arisen, on every side, and even royalty has not disdained a seat amongst them: her late Royal Highness the Duchess of Brunswick, and the Princess of Wales having both resided here: and here some of the early days of playful childhood were passed by the much lamented Princess Charlotte, the lost hope of Britain!

Under a remarkable promontory on the verge of the plain towards Greenwich, and immediately com-

manding the latter, a large cavern was accidentally discovered in the year 1780. It consisted of seven large vaults, or apartments, communicating with each other by arches cut in the chalky rock, and penetrating more than 150 feet into the hill. The floor or bottom was a fine dry sand, 170 feet below the surface of the ground, and in it was found a well of very pure water 27 feet in depth, upon which the varieties of the seasons appear to have no influence. Conjecture has been wildly employed respecting the origin and uses of this singular excavation, but no account upon which any reliance can be placed has been preserved, either of its history or design; nor were any relics, utensils, or weapons discovered, or, in a word, any thing which could assist the curious inquirer.

From this spot the prospect is amazingly rich; but the volume of smoke which, whenever the wind blows from the northern points of the compass, is driven in the face of the observer, considerably diminishes the effect of the view.

SEVERN-DROOG CASTLE.

Leaving Woolwich, the most ancient military and naval arsenal in the kingdom, at about the distance of three miles on the left hand, the principal road from London to Dover, soon after crossing *Blackheath*, and passing not far from the modern building, erected for the accommodation of the students of the Royal Military Academy, begins to ascend that fine eminence called *Shooter's hill*, on the brow of which,

and a little on the right hand side of the road, stands *Severn-Droog Castle*, a singular edifice, built by the relict of Sir Edward W. James, in remembrance of his bravery in the East Indies; and, as appears by an inscription over the entrance, upon the model of a fort or tower there, which Sir Edward carried, sword in hand, in an engagement with the native powers, when serving under the command of his Excellency the Marquis Cornwallis.

This edifice is built of stone, and its form is between an oval and a triangle. The apartments which it contains are therefore very irregular, and moreover very small, but the views from the windows, in every direction, are remarkably striking, especially of the course of the Thames; Woolwich barracks, unquestionably the finest building of the kind in the British dominions; and Greenwich Park with its sylvan scenery and noble accompaniments; so that if an inhabitant were all eye, and could live upon prospects, and take delight in the whistling of the winds, *Severn-Droog Castle* would be a most desirable residence. This building is reported to be 482 feet above the level of the sea.

Formerly the road leading to Dartford was, in this part of it especially, much dreaded by travellers, on account of the number of depredations continually committed by robbers; but of late years that evil has been happily remedied, not so much perhaps by the vigilance of the police, to which it is often solely attributed, as by the cutting down of the thickets, with which this whole district was once covered, and the increase of population, and consequently the

additional number of houses which have been erected in the neighbourhood.

The name of Shooter's hill appears to have been acquired by the circumstance of this spot having been in old time much resorted to, for the purpose of exercise in archery; and hither came, in great state and magnificence, King Henry VIII. and Queen Catherine, on a May-day, to witness an exhibition of skill, by a band of Toxophilites, representing Robin Hood and his men, who were afterwards sumptuously regaled in booths and arbours fitted up for the occasion.

An excellent inn (the Bull) occupies the brow of the hill, and commands beautiful views of the river, and the opposite shore of Essex, on one side; and in an opposite direction, the well-wooded and agreeably varied county between the Thames and the Medway, extending to Sevenoaks and Croydon, is stretched beneath the eye, like a map.

The road, which has been recently much improved by a considerable reduction of the hill on the southern side, runs in a direct line through the little village of Crayford—whose name bespeaks its origin, to the no less intelligible

DARTFORD,

so called from the ancient passage or ford over the river Darent, and celebrated for its manufacture of gunpowder, which is carried on very near the town. It also formerly boasted a magnificent nunnery, of which Bridget, daughter of King Edward IV. was

prioress ; and in remote times was distinguished by the Roman road called Watling-street, passing through it. At present it contains scarcely any thing remarkable ; indeed scarcely any thing which attracts attention besides the number of its ~~inns~~, and the singular situation of the parish church, which, standing near the extremity of the town, has a burial-ground almost contiguous, but higher than the roof of that building.

Wat Tyler's rebellion broke out here, and originated in the provocation given by an act of brutality on the part of a tax-gatherer, a description of persons who in every age seem to have been too often disposed to manifest the disposition of petty tyrants ; and in whom especially such disposition deserves the severest and most exemplary punishment, because it has a direct tendency to excite disaffection towards the government, of whose authority they are the unworthy delegates.

The principal street of Dartford is of a commodious width ; but the chief importance of the place, besides its powder trade, is dependent upon its situation as a post-town on the great road to Chatham and Dover.

CHAP. VI.

Gravesend.—Swanscombe.—Rochester.—Chatham.
—Milton.—Faversham.

GRAVESEND is a place not to be overlooked by the Tourist, although its situation, close to the water side and out of the direct line of road, occasions those who travel with expedition, more frequently to pass by than through it. The town has been considerably improved and enlarged of late, and many of the streets (which must have been very narrow and inconvenient before such alterations) have been widened and rendered more commodious. It is remarkable for the abundance and excellence of the vegetables cultivated in the immediate vicinity, and particularly famed for asparagus. Not only the shipping at Blackwall and Northfleet, where the Indians usually rendezvous, commonly take in their provisions at Gravesend, but a considerable supply, especially of vegetables, is sent hence to the London markets.

Outward bound vessels are examined at Gravesend by the officers belonging to the customs, and here receive their clearances; and in time of war all foreigners are detained until an order has been received from the office of the Secretary of State respecting them.

Gravesend was burnt by the French and Spaniards in their united descent upon it, in 1380; and in

1727, an accidental fire consumed the chapel, (which had been built by the voluntary contribution of the inhabitants,) together with the greater part of the town. There is a regular conveyance by boats to London, every flood, at the very moderate fare of *eighteen pence* for each person, and these vessels return from Billingsgate at the time of high water, agreeable to a charter of privileges obtained from King Richard II. by the then Abbot of St. Mary de Grace, near Tower Hill, to whom this manor belonged.

SWANSCOMBE,

between two and three miles from Gravesend, is remarkable in legal history for the franchise of *gavel kind*, according to which lands descend by equal partition amongst the sons of the possessor: and *Spot* has recorded a curious account of the origin of this custom.

In a wood situated partly in this parish, and partly in the parish of Southfleet, is a remarkable cavern with cells, called *Clapper-Napper's hole*, from a notorious robber who is reported to have made it the place of his retreat, and whose name has been used as a terror to the infantile part of the community from the days of King Alfred to the present time.

The church of Swanscombe is very ancient, with a square tower and octagon spire, which was struck by lightning on Whit Tuesday in the year 1802.

The old custom is still retained here, of carrying funeral garlands or crowns before the corpse of a virgin, and placing them on her coffin, whilst the

burial service is read; and afterwards of suspending them near the monument or grave, as trophies of victory over the lusts of the flesh as well as death itself, agreeable to the account of this ceremonial in the fourth volume of the Antiquarian Repertory.

This neighbourhood is also remarkable for having been the scene of that brave exploit of the Kentish men, who concealed themselves by carrying boughs of trees in their hands, and suddenly throwing them down, offered battle to William the Conqueror, unless he restored to them their ancient rights and privileges; which was accordingly done.

On the brow of a hill which commands a fine view, is a respectable mansion belonging to an eccentric old gentleman, who amuses himself in the cultivation of a large garden contiguous, and has placed the following whimsical inscription near the road:

“ Hortus Edensis.

Ne nugare,

Tuum tempus breve est.

Non tange prohibitum fructum

Ne moriaris.

Habe tuam fiduciam in Deo,

Et vives in æternum.

“ The Garden of Eden.

Trifle not,

Your time is short.

Touch not the forbidden fruit

Lest you die.

Put your trust in God,

And you will live for ever.

“ This is the best world we live in,
To spend, to lend, or to give in:
But to borrow, or beg, or get a man's own,
It is the worst world that ever was known.

“ Lac mihi non æstate novum, non frigore desit.

“ N. B. I keep a cow.

“ In Eden's garden plants like these were plac'd,
And sacred vengeance came on those who once defac'd
The forbidden tree, and pluck'd the golden fruit.

" Now, traveller, mark ! that vengeance is not mine ;
 Awful justice comes, though slow, yet sure in time :
 Therefore beware, nor tempt his vengeful arm
 Lest men-traps catch, or spring guns give th' alarm,
 Lest nightly watchmen seize the guileful hand
 And Britain's laws transport thee from the land ! "

This strange mixture of sacred and profane scarcely deserves a critique ; and perhaps the reader will add " or the trouble of copying." Writers usually entertain a good opinion of their own works whatsoever the world or the critics may think of them ; and the ingenious author of this extraordinary production flatters himself that his verses have preserved his fruit, as well as established his reputation as a poet. He relates an anecdote of a sailor who appeared to have taken great pains to spell the inscription, and then with an oath exclaimed, " I have been so long in reading your d—d nonsense, old gentleman, that I have not time to rob your orchard."

Passing through the little village of Chalk, or Chalk-street, so called from its situation on the Roman way, and leaving Cobham Hall, the seat of a very ancient family of the same name, on the right hand, the traveller soon arrives at

STROUD.

which, together with ROCHESTER and CHATHAM, being in a manner contiguous, may be considered as forming one large town.

The church of Stroud is a plain substantial edifice of modern construction. The principal street, like

all the rest, is narrow and ill paved, and the buildings are irregular and mean. In the vicinity of this town is a farm-house, which was anciently a monastery belonging to the Knights Templars. It is still denominated Temple House, and stands on the bank of the Medway. The bridge over the river, which connects STROUD with ROCHESTER, was built at the joint expense of Sir Robert Knollis and the Lord Cobham, in the fourteenth century, and measures five hundred and sixty feet in length, by fifteen in breadth. It consists of eleven arches, the largest being about forty feet in span. They are very irregular and in bad condition, as also the parapet, notwithstanding the tolls collected, and the donations of considerable sums which have from time to time been made, for keeping it in repair.

ROCHESTER CASTLE,

with its lofty keep, bearing a distant resemblance to the White Tower of London, stands near the end of the bridge, and has a venerable and formidable appearance, on approaching its decayed walls, which are still in some parts of the building not less than ninety feet in height.

It is said that *Gundulph*, Bishop of Rochester, erected this tower as a repository for the archives and treasures of the see; but more probably it was designed for his own residence: for although the bishopric is undoubtedly very ancient, having been founded in the reign of King Ethelbert, early in the seventh century, it was never more extensive than

King Charles II. has been called the founder of Chatham, which was principally built at the close of the Dutch war; but in fact, the dock-yard existed upon a confined scale as early as the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and *the chest at Chatham* was established in 1558 for the relief of the sufferers in the defeat of the Spanish Armada: each seaman contributing a portion of his pay towards its maintenance. There is also an hospital for aged mariners and shipwrights, founded by Sir John Hawkins in 1592. The dock-yard is very extensive, being nearly a mile in length, including the ordnance wharf, which was the original dock; and some of the store-rooms are of immense size. The rope-house measures eleven hundred and forty feet in length, and cables twenty-two inches in circumference, and a hundred and twenty fathoms long, are made here.

In 1667 the Dutch fleet sailed up the Medway, burnt several ships, destroyed the town of Sheerness, and proceeded to Chatham, where also it effected considerable damage.

Chatham church was enlarged by the commissioners of the navy in 1636, and the steeple erected: an aisle on the south side was added in 1707, but afterwards demolished, and since rebuilt on an improved plan.

The town is defended by Upnor and Gillingham Castles, the former being nearly opposite to the dock-yard, on the west side of the Medway.

Three miles from Chatham, in the church of the village of Rainham, are many monuments of the

Thanet family ; and at Newington, about the same distance from Rainham, it is believed that there was formerly a Roman station.

At *Key-street*, which, as its name implies, is also situated upon the Roman military way, the great road to Dover branches off to the right for Maidstone and Tunbridge ; and a mile and a half beyond, is the ancient town of Milton situated at the head of the creek, which, joining the river Swale, divides the Isle of Sheppey from the main land.

MILTON

was the residence of the Kentish Kings, whose palace there was burnt down by Earl Godwin, in the reign of Edward the Confessor. The church still contains some very curious monuments. The town is chiefly noted for the excellence and delicacy of its oysters, which are esteemed superior in flavour to every other kind found on our coasts.

From *Milton* the road passes through *Sittingbourne*, a pleasant village ; *Green-street*, a hamlet to the parish of *Norton*, where formerly stood the mansion house of Apuldurfield, one of the heroes of the Crusade, whose armour is piously laid up in the neighbouring church of Durham ; and *Ospringe*, in which may still be traced the remains of an hospital founded by King Henry III.

Near this place the ridge of Boughton Hill affords a most delightful prospect of the surrounding country ; the villas, and even the cottages which border the road presenting a picture of singular neat-

ness, and affording a striking proof of the opulence and industry of the inhabitants of the whole district.

FAVERSHAM,

on the left of the road leading to Dover, is a populous town, with a handsome church and fine lofty spire. The bells which belong to it are not placed within the building, but in a frame of timber near the north-western angle. The town is of great antiquity; the two Roman Saints Crispin and Crispinus being said to have been *bound apprentices to a shoemaker here*; a circumstance which might have appeared more incredible if modern days had not afforded many instances of *Saints* engaged in very servile and menial capacities! In the year 811 Faversham was denominated *the King's Town*, when Cenwall or Cenolf granted a charter to Walford, Archbishop of Canterbury, which bestowed upon it numerous privileges. Here was an abbey of Cluniac monks in the reign of King Stephen, and fragments of the gateway are still to be traced, as also of the chapel and porter's lodge. Tradition says that both King Stephen and his Queen Matilda were buried here; and *Stowe* asserts that, at the suppression of monasteries, the body of that monarch was thrown into the river for the sake of the leaden coffin in which it had been enclosed.

The corporation of *Faversham* have great privileges, and amongst others hold a court of session twice every year, and decide upon all offences committed within the town, excepting that of high trea-

son. Here also, as well as at Milton, is a valuable oyster fishery, which affords employment to hundreds of the inhabitants; and a grammar school which was founded by Queen Elizabeth, the corporation being governors; but the appointment of the master is vested in the warden and six senior fellows of All Souls' College in Oxford. Here are besides two charity schools, almshouses for six poor men and six women, and other benevolent institutions for the relief and assistance of poor and distressed persons.

The hop-grounds which surround the city of Canterbury are very extensive and productive. The approach to this district by the road on which we are travelling is highly interesting. It is said, that more than two thousand acres in the immediate vicinity are appropriated to this description of culture.

From an eminence, about a mile and a half northward of the course of the Little Stour, which runs through Canterbury, the road leading to that city from London presents a fine view of its principal buildings, and of the surrounding country.

CHAP. VII.

Canterbury.

CANTERBURY numbers in the list of its historians the names of writers so eminently distinguished by industry and talents, that it would be both presumptuous and unnecessary to undertake a minute description of this venerable city. Its records have been preserved and illustrated by the diligence of those who from long residence in, and local knowledge of the spot, were well qualified to afford the most ample satisfaction to every curious inquirer: and even casual visitors have been provided with a most interesting description of the principal objects worthy of notice, by an ingenious author, who has left so little to be added to his very sensible and well-written book, by those who may be inclined to follow his footsteps in a *Walk round Canterbury*, that it only remains for succeeding travellers to communicate the impressions made upon their minds by a comparison of what they see with what has been already written, and justifies the supposition that the general reader is already acquainted with the objects which are thus only recalled to his notice. Indeed it would be highly improper for a stranger to intrude within the province of writers, who, by being long conversant with the neighbourhood, have an undoubted right to be considered authentic sources of information; if it were not a disgrace to science

and literature, that he who has pretensions to either should pass through a district replete with interesting objects, regardless of its venerable monuments of antiquity, its picturesque scenery, and its valuable modern improvements. The following remarks are therefore presented as annotations upon what has been previously submitted to the public by others, and are intended to convey to the reader the sentiments of a traveller grateful for the assistance which he has derived from the intelligence of those who have enjoyed better opportunities of acquiring information; and at the same time of one who entirely concurs with the author of the remark, that "a careless eye-witness is worse than none;" and that it is impossible to do justice to any description by merely quoting authors, however creditable or learned; or by reporting from the mouth of preceding visitors, without actual and personal inspection, and boldness enough to think for ourselves.

The situation of *Canterbury*, in the midst of a fertile track near the sea-coast, and in the direct road from some of the most ancient Ports to the capital of the island, must have rendered it a place of importance at a very early period; and there are authors inclined to dignify it with an origin far more remote than any authentic documents can be produced to justify. Celts and various Druidical remains have, it is true, been found in the neighbourhood; but what proofs have we that the Druids inhabited cities? or that Celts are more likely to be discovered in them than amongst the wilds and the forests, the woods or the rocks. Conjecture has been

busily employed in endeavouring to trace the name *Durovernum*, which the Romans bestowed upon it, to its origin in the vernacular language of the inhabitants; and the British terms; *Dwr Whern*, *Dwr Avon*, *Dwr Arguerne*, and *Dwr Aber*; have been cited as the probable roots and source of the new appellation given to it, when it had come into the possession of the conquerors of the world. However its situation upon the brink of a river, at the mouth or outlet of a lake or expanse of water, or in the vicinity of marshy ground, might seem to countenance such an opinion, the notion must be esteemed only conjectural, curious rather than useful, and, although perhaps supported by probability, affording, at the same time, abundant opportunity for the exercise of equal ingenuity and equal learning, in successfully repelling all the arguments which sagacity has been able to advance in defence of it.

There is a sort of antiquarian ardour which sometimes hurries authors and travellers far astray from the track of plain common sense, and occasions them to become bewildered in the labyrinths of fancy and absurdity. With all due respect for the learning which has been wasted upon this very subject, it may not be impertinent to inquire, why the Romans, in imposing upon this city the Latin name *Durovernum*, should be supposed to have adopted a literal, or rather an auricular imitation of its more ancient title, any more than that their successors the Saxons should have entirely lost sight of the connexion between its original name and situation, when they on a sudden converted *Durovernum* into *Canterbury*. But it

seems that *Cant-wara-burg* is translated, *the Kentish-man's city*: and *Canterbury* is related to *Can-tium*, and *Cantium* to *Caer*, which is *a walled town*: and moreover *Cantium*, amongst other significations, denotes *a corner* or *angle*, and it may be of *land* as well as any thing else; and Kent is the south-eastern corner or angle of Britain: and thus it is that conjecture travels post until she has wearied both herself and her followers.

Of the origin of names no very certain account is, in general, to be obtained. It would be absurd to deny that they have been sometimes bestowed capriciously; but it is probable that in the majority of instances appellatives were borrowed from circumstances connected with local situation; at least amongst the aboriginal inhabitants of this country. Many events have concurred to change the face and appearances of the land (in the neighbourhood, for example, of Canterbury) which thus likewise tend to obscure the view of posterity with regard to the motives by which their predecessors might have been actuated, in *calling the lands after such names* as, at the time, were highly appropriate. Who, from present appearances, could conjecture that the fertile meadows eastward of the city of Canterbury, now scarcely watered by the narrow stream of the Stour, were once a branch of that great estuary which separated the Isle of Thanet from the rest of the county of Kent; and that the village of Sturry, where now there is only water enough to turn a mill, was once a port!

Fragments of antiquity almost innumerable have

been discovered in and near Canterbury. Roman arches were standing in the last century, and Roman bricks have been found sufficient to have maintained them in repair for many ages to come. Thorpe, one of the Kentish historians, and Archdeacon Batteley, names which ought to be mentioned with respect, have afforded minute and interesting descriptions of these and other vestiges of ancient splendour. Gough has preserved authentic and accurate accounts of some of these venerable relics; and amongst them of a Roman altar, with the delineation of which he has enriched his elaborate work.

The military way called *Watling Street*, running from *Dover* to *Chester*, passed through *Canterbury*, not in the course of the present high street, as has been erroneously supposed, but considerably more westward, and nearer the ancient castle; entering by a fine gateway, which has been removed from its original site to make room for modern alterations, but re-erected and preserved in the garden of a respectable gentleman in the neighbourhood, by whose care this interesting fragment of ancient art has been thus preserved from utter destruction. The original abutments of the arch, or arches (for the gate consisted of two, as was also the case at Lincoln and in other places), may still be traced in the city walls; and many portions of the old materials are seen interspersed amongst the patches of modern masonry with which they have been repaired. In this quarter of the city (the south-west) were constructed the principal military works, thrown up both for its defence, and with a view to its destruction; and they

have left abundant proofs of the importance attached to the possession of it by their extent and formidableness. A large space of ground bounded by the south-western angle of the walls, along the top of which runs a handsome terrace-walk, forms a summer promenade for the inhabitants. It is agreeably planted with trees and shrubs, and is kept with admirable neatness by a gardener, who lives in a cottage picturesquely placed in a small grove of trees near the spot; and has a liberal salary from the corporation purse. Within the area of this ground is a very high artificial mount, which is ascended by means of serpentine, or rather zig-zag walks, between nicely-clipped quick hedges, and surmounted by a stone column with a vane and other ornaments, and bearing marble tablets with the following inscriptions:

“ This field and hill were improved, and these terraces, walks, and plantations made, in the year 1790, for the use of the public, at the sole expense of *James Simmons, Esq.* of this city, alderman and banker. To perpetuate the memory of which generous transaction, and as a mark of gratitude for his other public services, this pillar was erected by voluntary subscription in the year 1803.”

“ The Mayor and Commonalty of this ancient City, in consequence of the expensive improvements lately made in this field, unanimously resolved, in the year 1802, to appropriate the same in perpetuity to the use of the public, and to endow it with sixty pounds a-year for the maintenance and support of the terrace, walks, and plantations, payable out of their chamber.”

The principal walk is thirteen feet wide, and about

four hundred yards long, and the length of the terrace extends to more than six hundred yards; having numerous alcoves and seats for the repose and accommodation of those who resort hither. There is also an orchestra, in which a band of music is occasionally stationed, for the entertainment of company.

From the terrace and mount, the prospects of the surrounding country, its gently rising hills and innumerable hop-gardens, superadded to the grandeur and sublimity of the ruins of the castle and monastery, the magnificent cathedral, and other edifices, not only deserve the attention, but cannot fail to excite the admiration of every visitor: indeed the pains which have been taken to render this spot an agreeable addition to the places of public resort for the inhabitants of Canterbury and its environs, are highly creditable to the liberality, taste, and good sense of its respectable and opulent corporation.

Of the origin of the name of this agreeable place of recreation, which is one of the pleasantest appendages to a populous town which it has been my fortune to observe, I cannot pretend to speak with antiquarian confidence. It is called the *Dane John* or *Dungeon* Field or Walks; and it is supposed that it acquired its appellation from the defensive works thrown up here by the Danes. On the other hand, it has been questioned by the ingenious *Mr. Gosling* in his "Walk in and about Canterbury," before alluded to, whether the Christian name of John were found among pagans! Some have derived the name from the French word *donjon*, a turret in old

fortifications, and deny that the Danes had any thing to do with these works, unless in the efforts which probably they might have made to force or destroy them. Again, others have contended, that although John is not a Danish name, *Jon* is! Thus this important affair remains, after all, in its original obscurity.

Northward of the Dane John are still some remains of the quadrangular keep, or tower, of the old castle, reduced by repeated dilapidations to a mere shell, and now affording scarcely any correct notion of its pristine form or arrangement. It bears some resemblance to the keep of Rochester Castle, and like that, as well as Dover, Carisbrook, and some other edifices of the same description, is said to have had an inexhaustible well of water, to which there was access from the very summit. Vast masses of the building which for ages had blocked up the area, having fallen from the decaying walls or perhaps been battered down, and of which the cement had become as hard as the flints which it connected together, in the year 1816, reluctantly yielded to the pickaxes and hammers of numerous labourers, then employed to remove them: so that in a short time it may be presumed, that even the ruins of Canterbury Castle shall have ceased to remind posterity of the feats of arms performed by their ancestors, and, like those ancestors themselves, have been literally crumbled into dust.

Oblivion has already thrown her veil over the mighty fabric. By whom or when built, and by whom or when reduced to a state of desolation and decay,

are particulars alike unknown ! It is for the historian to record those changes which have marked the progress of civilization, and the consequent improvements in the art of war ; changes which have brought the world out of darkness and ignorance to the attainment of science and the study of philosophy, and improvements which have given a new and far less ferocious character, even to those conflicts which the arrogant encroachments, and mischievous ambition of neighbouring but jealous and rival states still continue to provoke. We cast a retrospective glance over the relation of those sanguinary and barbarous triumphs, when rapine met with no check from sentiments of generous compassion, and the savage invader pursued his career of violence with relentless ferocity ; and we happily contrast those times with our own, which have afforded the noblest instances of valour and heroism, combined with the most delicate sense of honour, and the tenderest feelings of humanity.

Canterbury was ravaged and set on fire by the Danes ; but rescued from absolute destruction by the courage and address of Elfreda, the daughter of King Alfred, who from the account of Simon of Durham (copied by Lambard, and after him by many other writers) appears to have been animated by a portion of her royal father's magnanimous and heroic spirit. This city had scarcely recovered from its calamitous condition, when it was again seized by the same enemy, and purchased, by an enormous tribute, a short peace of only about two years before it was a third time exposed to the hostility of those insatiate plunderers. On the latter occasion it is recorded to have

suffered the horrors of a siege for nearly three weeks, when, having been compelled to yield to the assailants, it was sacked with all the ferocity which usually marked those savage times, and the northern hordes to whose fury its wretched inhabitants had become the victims. It is said that, besides the loss of eight thousand persons who had either fallen in the contest, or were afterwards destroyed by the conquerors, the city was still further reduced by the captivity of the principal survivors; and that the Archbishop, who was amongst the number, after suffering every description of insult and indignity which could be devised, was barbarously put to death for refusing to consent to the payment of a great ransom demanded for his release.

Stow, in his Chronicle, affirms that Canterbury was, at the time of the Norman conquest, a larger city than even London; and for want of more certain information, the erection of the castle has been referred to that period; but, as was before observed, on very doubtful authority. William, indeed, built many fortresses soon after his arrival, the better to enable him to retain his newly-acquired dominions, in which it may be presumed that the great body of the people were not very affectionately attached to him. Harbours were then few; and the difficulty of effecting a landing, combined with the hostile disposition of many of the inhabitants of the country, whom he had not been able either completely to subdue, or firmly to attach to his interests, rendered his return from visiting his Norman dukedom extremely precarious: it was therefore good policy to endeavour to secure a safe

footing on the southern coast; and hence it is probable, though by no means certain, that so important a military post as Canterbury was not neglected. Be that as it may, no accounts are preserved by which it can be at present ascertained that any of the defensive works here were erected in that reign.

Leaving its ancient military history for its ecclesiastical records, it is to be noticed that here King Ethelbert kept his court, and good Queen Berthra resided: and it is important to mention that the profound veneration which that sovereign entertained for those who had opened to his hopes the promises of everlasting life, and the treasures of the gospel, induced him to bestow upon them the palace in which he resided, and extensive domains for the support and permanent establishment of their order. Thus was founded the metropolitan see, which St. Augustine first held under the authority of Pope Gregory, and which in succeeding ages has numbered amongst its reverend prelates so many distinguished and learned men, that its history may be considered one of the most illustrious records of national worth.

St. Augustine has had the credit of introducing Christianity into this island; but that appears to have originated in a mistake, for it is pretty certain that there was a society of Christians, and a church erected for their use in the vicinity of Canterbury, long before the landing of that good father. Some have supposed that not only Queen Berthra had her Christian priests or chaplains before the time of Augustine, but that there were converts to the faith even amongst the Roman soldiery stationed here: and it

is indisputable that St. Martin's church, still remaining in the suburbs, is built almost, if not entirely, with Roman bricks. This edifice is even conjectured to have been erected during the reign of Lucius, in the second century; and Venerable Bede asserts that Augustine performed his devotions in this very building, on his first arrival in Britain in 597. Unfortunately, however, St. Martin was not born until a hundred years afterwards; but this formidable difficulty is surmounted by the aid of a *conjecture* that the same church *might have* had different patrons at different times, as was the case with many other ancient places of worship. Without detracting from the merit of St. Augustine's services to the general cause of religion, it is but fair to add that his mission to England was not for the purpose of introducing or even establishing Christianity, as has been erroneously asserted, but to preach the doctrine of the Papal supremacy; and in this attempt it is certain that he met with insuperable obstacles in the firmness of the early British Christians, who refused spiritual allegiance to any other head than the Bishop of Carleon (now St. David's) and notwithstanding the eloquence of his persuasions, and terror of his threatenings, continued infidels to that faith in the Pope, which probably contributed, more than real piety, to make Augustine a Saint.

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF CANTERBURY.

The magnificence of the building, and the peculiar neatness with which every part, both of the edifice and

the area which encloses it, are carefully preserved, can not fail to afford a lively gratification to the admirers of architectural splendour. We approach the Cathedral, from the high street, and principal parts of the town, under a highly ornamented gateway decorated with niches, statues, and a profusion of carved work and shields of arms. It bears the date 1517. Hence the opening view of the church, with its lofty tower, delicately-ornamented pinnacles, and stately buttresses, is remarkably fine.

At the entrance by the west end, the height of the nave, its pillars, and the just proportions of its arches and several parts, its incomparable neatness, and the singular grandeur of the ascent to the choir, have an imposing effect, whilst the sepulchral monuments around inspire the most solemn reflections.

The choir is 180 feet in length, the ornaments appropriate, every thing noble, nothing gaudy : the prebendal stalls and archiepiscopal throne magnificent.

The body of St. Dunstan was interred near the altar, by the pious care of Archbishop Lanfranc ; but, after a few years, having been removed to another part of the building, a dispute arose respecting the identity of the saint's bones ; and the monks of Glastonbury, where Dunstan had been educated, claimed the honour of possessing his remains. At length, in order to destroy such pretensions, and moreover to put a stop to the votive offerings at the shrine which his devotees had erected in Glastonbury, and by which perhaps those " of like occupation " at Canterbury thought their craft endangered, a diligent

search was instituted, the holy relicts happily discovered, and an injunction obtained to prohibit all future claims to the possession of so sacred and valuable a treasure.

But the principal boast and glory of this church, for ages, was the famous shrine of Thomas à Becket, denominated by Mr. Gosling, *the Pope's martyr*, as he not unaptly called St. Dunstan the *Pope's apostle*! The spot on which Becket was assassinated is exactly pointed out: on the north side of the western cross aisle, near the door of the cloisters, by which the archbishop was accustomed to pass from his palace to the choir. Without the least design to attempt to extenuate a deed of such savage atrocity, it is consistent with historical truth to correct the accounts which have been given of that circumstance, in which accounts it is asserted that the prelate was at his devotions, and that his brains were beaten out before the altar. So far from this being the case, there is reason to believe that Becket might have avoided his unhappy fate, if he had regarded the advice of his friends, who earnestly endeavoured to prevail upon him not to expose himself to the danger which, they very well knew that, his impetuosity and haughtiness would be likely to provoke in an interview with the persons who in the end became his murderers.

The humiliating conditions upon which Henry II. procured the removal of the papal interdict, are well known. That monarch was induced to make a pilgrimage barefoot to Becket's tomb, and, after submitting to personal chastisement at the hands of the

monks, seems to have been so well pleased with it, that he paid a second visit to them, in company with Louis VII. King of France, who not only made oblations of gold and jewels, but granted by his royal charter an allowance of wine annually for the use of the convent.

Philip Earl of Flanders, also, was another distinguished visitor, and William Archbishop of Rheims; and the concourse of devout persons continually resorting to it was so great, that the gates of the city were found insufficient to afford a ready admittance to them, and a new entrance was accordingly made, expressly for their convenience: not less than 200,000 pilgrims having bent the knee at this celebrated shrine, in one year, when in the height of its renown.

The learned Erasmus has recorded an account of the riches and magnificence which were lavished upon it. "A coffin," says he, "of wood, which covered a coffin of gold, was drawn up by ropes and pulleys; and discovered an invaluable treasure: gold was the meanest ornament to be seen there; every part shone and glittered with the rarest and most costly jewels, of extraordinary size and value—some were larger than the egg of a goose!" Viewing this gorgeous monument the poet might with great propriety exclaim,

"Thou so sepulchred in such pomp dost lie,
That kings for such a tomb would wish to die!"

However, in process of time, all this magnificence was doomed to destruction: the treasures which superstition had heaped together were seized by rapa-

city, and the thoughtless multitude readily assisted in violating the sepulchre and burning the corpse of him whom they had lately worshipped as a saint; confirming the truth of the remark that "popular applause is lighter than a feather or a bubble, and less substantial than a dream!"

Whatsoever degree of triumph might thus be afforded to the indignant contemners of bigotry must have been considerably allayed by the reflection, (if they were capable of making it) that the inordinate exercise of despotic authority, and the frenzy of reformers, are equally at variance with that calm and rational freedom, and legal security, which is the pride and boast of Englishmen.

But the loss of the shrine was not the only injury which the church of Canterbury was destined to suffer at the hands of reformers. One of the most splendid ornaments of the building, a painted glass window of exquisite workmanship, was destroyed by the puritans in the civil wars, with as much holy zeal as was evinced by those who had ransacked the tomb of Becket. An account of the *pious labours* of those modern Vandals was preserved by one of their fraternity, Richard Culmer, who himself assisted in that notable undertaking, and calls his relation of it "*a merry narrative*." "The commissioners," says he, "fell presently to work on the great idolatrous window standing on the left hand as you go up into the choir, for which window (some affirm) many thousand pounds have been offered by outlandish papists. In that window was the picture of GOD the Father, and of Christ, besides a large crucifix, and

the picture of the Holy Ghost in the form of a dove ; and of the twelve apostles : and in that window were seven large pictures of the Virgin Mary, in seven glorious appearances ; as of angels lifting her into heaven, and the sun, moon, and stars, under her feet ; and every picture had an inscription beginning with *Gaude, Maria, &c.* Rejoice, Mary, thou spouse of God ! There were also many other pictures of Popish saints, as of St. George, &c. but their prime saint, Archbishop Becket, was most rarely pictured with cope, rochet, mitre, crosier, and in pontificalibus, &c." He adds, " A minister was on the top of the city ladder, near sixty steps high, with a pike in his hand, *rattling down proud Becket's glassy bones*, when others then present would not venture so high." But there was one circumstance attending the transaction, which pious Mr. Culmer has not thought proper to insert in his *merry narrative*, namely, that whilst the godly minister, whose zeal he has been pleased to record and commend, was employed in the *blessed work* above mentioned, a townsman among the surrounding spectators asked him what he was about : " I am doing the work of the Lord !" said the fanatic. " Then," rejoined the other, " If it please the Lord I will help thee : " and immediately threw a large stone with so much good-will that it knocked the saint off the ladder, and nearly beat his brains out.

There are still remaining in some of the windows, the figures of King Edward IV and his Queen, Prince Edward, Richard Duke of York, and three Princesses ; but the dates, legends, and inscriptions, have all been defaced.

The east end of the choir terminates with a window opening into that part of the building called Becket's crown, where the high altar formerly stood, and in which is still remaining the Archiepiscopal chair, or seat, of grey marble.

The monuments in the cathedral are numerous: many of them interesting from their antiquity, few from their elegance of design, but some on account of the persons to whose memory they were erected. Amongst them, those of King Henry IV. and his Queen Joan, whose effigies are recumbent under a canopy adorned with the Royal arms of England, France, Navarre, &c. and near the monument is a small chapel originally appropriated to the performance of the *masses of requiem*.

There is also a magnificent memorial which was erected in memory of Edward commonly called the Black Prince, with his figure of brass or copper gilt, in armour, and with an *abacus*, or cap of state, surrounded with a coronet or circle of gold, once ornamented with precious stones. His head rests on a helmet, and above are suspended gauntlets ornamented with his coat of arms, and quilted with fine cotton, but much decayed and most dismally soiled by time and dust. The scabbard of his sword (which latter is said to have been taken away by Oliver Cromwell) is still remaining, and also his shield, which has handles affixed to it, and is hung up near the tomb. An inscription in French, on brass plates and fillets inserted in the stone, is also legible. Near the monument is an altar, with the steps at the foot of it much worn, probably by those who there

celebrated masses for the illustrious personage above mentioned.

The fancy of taking away the arms of distinguished warriors from the sacred depositories in which piety has laid them up by way of remembrance, seems to have prevailed in almost every nation and every age, from the days when David repossessed himself of the sword of Goliath the Philistine, which had been committed to the charge of Abimeleck the priest, to the time when that scourge of nations Napoleon Bonaparte carried away the sword of Frederick of Prussia, from the tomb of that monarch.

Many of the archbishops of this see are buried in the cathedral, and the cardinals Pole and Chastillon, the latter having died here while on a visit to England, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

Captain Pudner, a naval officer who passed the latter years of his life in retirement in this city, and was a liberal benefactor to it, contributed largely towards the improvement of the choir, and defrayed one half of the expense of new building the organ, to which he would have subscribed a still larger sum, if his judicious suggestions with regard to the place of its site had been at the time attended to. However after a lapse of about thirty years, his design was carried into execution, and the parties concerned having at length improved their taste, the organ was, in the year 1784, erected over the fine gothic screen at the west end of the choir.

The monuments in the nave and transept are chiefly of dignitaries belonging to this church, and

there are many whose inscriptions can afford gratification only as mere records of names and dates; but even these "frail memorials of departed worth" will friendship and gratitude peruse with emotions of affectionate regret.

In the south transept a plain black marble slab covers the remains of Meric Causabon, son of the learned and celebrated Isaac Causabon, who, though a layman, was prebendary of this church.

The cloisters adjoining the cathedral northward deserve the notice of visitors, and on the same side of the church is a very curious specimen of ancient Saxon architecture in the remains of the entrance into the *Domus Hospitium*, or apartment formerly designed for the entertainment of poor pilgrims who stood in need of the hospitality of the monks. One of the most extraordinary objects of attention here is the French church, appropriated to the use of Protestant refugees of that nation, and formed of the crypt under the cathedral. It is probably of higher antiquity than the superstructure, and Mr. Gosling supposes, from the style of architecture and other circumstances, that it is coeval with the reign of Alfred; having escaped the destructive effects of fire by which the main body of the edifice has, at different times, repeatedly suffered. The building, as it stands at present, was begun about the year 1174, but not completed until the reign of Henry V.

It is scarcely possible to picture to the mind any edifice more venerable in its appearance than this magnificent fabric; and the same pleasing neatness which is observable in every part of the building,

county in the erection of barracks, and the immense loss which has been sustained in the disposal of those which have become useless, it may be presumed that such a stock of experience has been by this time laid up, as will hereafter make some amends for former folly and extravagance, should it again be necessary to provide for the construction of buildings of a similar kind. The system of barrack-building has been carried to such an extent, that it ought to have arrived at great perfection. There should be no room for complaints that the health or comfort of the soldiery has been disregarded, or the interests of the country, and a prudent economy in the expenditure of the public money, neglected. It may perhaps be objected to the introduction of such a subject at present, as unbecoming; but the preservation of good order and military discipline is of such vital importance to the state at all times, the maintenance of public peace so desirable, and the relief of those classes of the community who most suffer by the neglect of a discreet management of the national resources, so desirable, that no opportunity should be lost of inculcating good advice, where, judging from the past, it may be so much wanted.

Under this impression it may be remarked, that the first object to be regarded in the erection of barracks is undoubtedly the health of the troops; the second, their convenient accommodation, and the facility of maintaining the strictest regularity of discipline, without any unnecessary privations or restraints; and the third, the promotion of public economy.

Every circumstance which regards personal com-

fort, consistent with the duties and privations essential to military discipline, must be considered as one of the first objects of those who would maintain and encourage that honourable and independent spirit, which distinguishes the British soldier. It is the light in which he is considered at home, which influences his conduct abroad. The respectability of his class, and the rights which his services secure to him, inspire that noble enthusiasm, that generous ardour, that proud superiority, which an Englishman carries with him through the world; and which enable him successfully to combat the hardiest veterans, or oppose the most ferocious barbarians. There is scarcely even a private soldier in the whole British army whose courage and conduct are not highly animated by a comparative estimate of the advantage, as well as the honour of defending the sacred rights of freedom, above the disgraceful servility of becoming the instrument of despotism or tyranny. This sentiment arises out of his habits of life, and is the result, not so much of reflection as of the principles instilled into his mind even in infancy, or, to use a vulgar but expressive figure, sucked in with his mother's milk. His exertions in the field are directed by a sense of national pride and honourable emulation, which teach him that whilst he defends his king, he vindicates his country and preserves his independence as a free-born Englishman; but the military character is so well known and duly estimated by the inhabitants of this country, that it would be superfluous to enlarge upon its worth, or to call for the assent of the reader, when it is added,

that, they who defend and secure all that is valuable and dear to us, at the hazard of their existence, are highly deserving of every attention by which a grateful public can promote their individual comfort.

But in the construction of barracks, due attention has not always been paid, either to the comfort of the soldier or the benefit of the public, for they have been erected in the centre of populous towns where the avenues of approach were singularly narrow, and the means of ventilation almost unattainable. In one of the midland counties, exactly such was the spot chosen for cavalry barracks, in preference to a wholesome open piece of unoccupied ground within pistol-shot of the suburbs, which might have been purchased for a tenth part of the sum laid out upon the site of a building extremely incommodious to all who inhabit it, and almost a nuisance to those who reside in its immediate vicinity: whilst to complete the absurdity, the troops were under the necessity of resorting to that very ground, for the purpose of airing and exercise, although in their passage thither they were compelled to pass through a series of narrow streets and lanes, in which the lives of hundreds of poor children, with whom such places are usually crowded, were thus perpetually endangered. In some instances, barracks, and permanent barracks too, have been erected in situations in which not a drop of water could be procured which is fit for washing, nor any provisions made for obtaining it, but by direct purchase of water-carriers, when within half a mile of the spot a fine river glides

along with even course, and presents on its banks numerous situations so eligible for building, that it might be almost supposed nothing short of wilful blindness could have overlooked so manifest an advantage. Nor were such blunders in this department at all uncommon: nay, even stables have been built upon a plan which seemed as if studiously adopted in order to exclude fresh air; lodging-rooms arranged immediately over them; and cooking-kitchens contiguous to hay-lofts. Enclosures for the deposit of manure have been so contrived, that it was impossible to open the barrack-windows without admitting its noisome exhalations. To the chambers devoted to the practice of their bands of music, the regimental hospitals have been closely attached; and in a word, there are few instances of barrack-building, in which the effects of inattention or ignorance, of negligent supineness, or mischievous activity, have not been observable. It is therefore most earnestly to be wished that such errors may be in future carefully guarded against; that appropriate regulations will be devised; and that both in the selection of ground and arrangement of buildings, a becoming regard will be paid to the convenience of the inhabitants of the vicinage, as well as for affording the means of realizing the best wishes of those who desire to see the military accommodated in the most comfortable manner, whilst the regularity of discipline is correctly maintained, and every circumstance connected with the preservation of health sedulously attended to, without losing sight of that necessary economy which the condition of the

country imperiously demands. To return to the barracks at Canterbury. Opposite to this extensive range of buildings, but on the western side of the Stour, stands Hackington, the respectable mansion of Sir Edward Hales, Bart. to whom with a large estate it descended from a co-heiress of the family of Wotton: and at this house King Charles II. and his brother James, Duke of York, were entertained on their journey from Dover to London at the restoration.

Royal visits have been often made to Canterbury, and amongst others it is recorded that Charles I. conducted Henrietta Maria of France to this city, upon her landing in England on the 13th of June, 1625; and he was married to her in the cathedral church.

The city is divided into wards, to which the six several gates at the respective entrances originally contributed their names. The west gate, which is still standing in the High-street, near the course of the river Stour, which forms several islands by its streams, is used as a prison. Near the middle of the same street is also the Guildhall, which contains many original portraits of distinguished persons, chiefly benefactors to the city. At the upper end is a whole length of Queen Anne, and a good picture of Sir Thomas White, Alderman of London, founder of St. John's College, Oxford, who died, as appears by the inscription below it, on the 9th of February, 1566, aged 72 years. The munificence of this wealthy and benevolent citizen was so extensive, that twenty-three towns corporate partake of the

benefits of his liberality, besides numerous other places, and various institutions which were either established or augmented by his bounty. Amongst the paintings occur the names of Lovejoy, Whitfield, Watson, Anson, Cotton, Robinson, and Colfe, with other generous friends, and many members of the corporation. Around the sides of this spacious apartment are arranged a variety of weapons, formerly used by the trained bands of this ancient city.

Canterbury has a manufactory of worsted; and the silk trade, which formerly was considerable, having greatly declined, was succeeded by the introduction of looms for those light and elegant cottons known by the appellation of Chamberry (Canterbury) muslins, for which renovation of its trade it is principally indebted to the industry and spirit of Mr. John Callaway.

The markets are very commodiously distributed in various quarters of the city; in one cattle, in another vegetables, in a third fish, &c. well supplied, and excellently regulated. In these particulars Sheffield and Canterbury may be said to vie with each other in presenting an example worthy of general imitation throughout the whole kingdom. It deserves particular notice, that in the former there are no shambles allowed within its limits, nor is any person permitted to *touch* the meat exposed for sale there, until the purchase has been completed. In the latter, the cattle-market is so well contrived, that there is a ready access to it from the several roads, without passing through the streets of the town; and it is guarded in such a manner as effectually to

secure those who have occasion to resort to it, from almost the possibility of those accidents which frequently occur in other places, for want of equal attention.

Upon the whole, there are few provincial towns which possess stronger recommendations to the notice of travellers, or afford a greater abundance of all the comforts and conveniences of life to their inhabitants, than this respectable city.

CHAP. VIII.

*Whitstaple.—Herne Bay and Village.—Reculvers.
—Sarr.*

THE traveller who desires completely to explore the Kentish coast, will deviate from the usual road from Canterbury to Margate, and proceed in a northern direction to Whitstaple, a small port at the mouth of the river Swale, which separates the Isle of Sheppey, from the main land.

The inhabitants of this district are engaged chiefly in the coasting trade, and particularly in the celebrated oyster fishery, and the conveyance of coal to Canterbury, and its neighbourhood. Off Whitstaple is a dangerous rock, too well known amongst mariners for the distressing scenes to which it has frequently given rise. It is commonly denominated the pudding-pan rock, and is dreaded like the ancient Charybdis.

The opposite coast of Essex, with the shipping continually enlivening the intervening river, affords a cheerful prospect from the beach; but the town itself is mean, the buildings are low, and the inns miserable.

On the verge of the shore eastward of Whitstaple, are extensive vitriol or copperas works, but the black and dismal appearance of the buildings excites disgust rather than curiosity. The neighbouring lands

are more attracting, their high state of cultivation is admirable, and their neatness unparalleled, excepting in the very best parts of Norfolk and Bedfordshire.

HERNE BAY,

and the village of that name, which consists only of a few cottages irregularly built round a green, situated upon a point of land which juts out abruptly from the line of coast, are beginning to rise into some degree of celebrity, by having lately become the resort of company for the purpose of bathing. Only a few years have elapsed since the erection of one of those temporary stations for the military, by which it was thought necessary to secure the coast, became a sort of signal to inform the visitors of Margate and Ramsgate that the spot was habitable. They soon afterwards flocked hither in such numbers, that a considerable increase in buildings and improvements speedily ensued. An hotel was erected, which, if not elegant, was capable of affording lodging to those who could not obtain a closet or a cupboard in the little habitations contiguous. Houses of various sizes and descriptions, and hot and cold baths, were constructed, and ample preparations made for the reception of those who, either attracted by the charms of novelty, or a desire of seclusion, might be tempted to take up their residence here. A degree of tranquillity, unknown to Margate in the bathing season, may undoubtedly be found at Herne Bay. The water is unquestionably more pure, the prospect of the sea more pleasing, the coast of Essex, and the little

islands at its south-eastern angle being in full view: but unfortunately the cold north-east wind, that inveterate enemy of tender delicate nerves, to which, like its fashionable neighbour Margate, this spot is completely exposed, considerably abridges its comforts and enjoyments.

The level fields intersected with embankments, upon which the traveller is now entering, although destitute of any object upon which his eye can rest, excepting here and there a shepherd's cottage—will become highly interesting when it is recollected that the ground on which he stands, and the verdure and fertility which he sees around him, was, a few centuries ago, covered by the waves of the briny deep; that this was that famous estuary which separated Thanet from the parent island, and admitted the passage of the largest ships; that where corn now grows, and cattle feed, was the once celebrated oyster-bed (*Fundus Rutupensis*) so much celebrated amongst the Roman gourmands.

The northern entrance of this strait was defended by the castle of Regulbium or Reculver, the spot where the Saxon kings kept their court, after Ethelbert had bestowed his palace at Canterbury upon Augustine, for the use of the monks: and here it is supposed that that monarch was buried.

Of the extent of this regal seat, no idea can be formed. All the remains of its ancient grandeur now consist in the foundation walls of the castle attributed to Severinus, which appears to have been nearly of a square form, measuring 190 yards from east to west, and 198 from south to north; and a ruin-

ated church of more modern building on the verge of the sea-shore, with two lofty but decayed towers at the west end, which are deemed of some importance as a land-mark.

THE RECULVERS.

There is a tradition that these towers, which are commonly called, "the Sisters," were erected by an Abbess of Faversham, in token of her affection for the memory of her sister, who, together with herself, suffered shipwreck here; and although rescued from the waves, died in a few hours afterwards, from the effects of fatigue and terror. So great was the reverence formerly entertained for the sanctity of this edifice, that it was for many ages the custom of sailors to lower the topsails of all vessels which passed the Reculvers.

The sea has washed away a considerable portion of the church-yard, and its continual encroachments threaten a speedy and complete destruction to every vestige of the building; which, as well as the place of its site, will, probably in a short time, be swallowed up by the raging billows, like the ancient city which tradition says once stood northward of the spot.

It is reported to have been in contemplation to erect a light-house near the site of the church; and according to the almost unanimous opinion of seafaring men, there is no situation upon this coast better calculated for a building of that description. The completion of such a design would also keep in

remembrance its ancient fame, which, not for the purpose of encouraging superstition, but of perpetuating gratitude and preserving the history of past ages, is certainly desirable.

In the time of Leland, the Reculver is said to have been half a mile from the verge of the shore: since that period, a quarter of a mile. The encroachments of the sea have been gradual. Mr. Batteley saw a tessellated pavement, which was soon afterwards washed away by the surge. The author of the Beauties of England mentioned six houses having fallen within the course of a few years: but it does not appear when that account was written. A single cottage is now (1817), I believe, the only habitation that remains, and a more than solemn—an awful silence, which seems to characterize the region of death, is never interrupted unless by the roaring of the sea, or the howling of the winds!

The lofty turrets nodding over the head of the intrusive traveller threaten him with instantaneous destruction, whilst beneath his feet yawning sepulchres disclose the shocking remains of mortality; and innumerable human bones, scattered and bleaching on the shore, form altogether a spectacle of gloomy horror, and verify the description of the poet:

——“ Canonized bones, hearsed in earth,
Have burst their cerements.”

Here the genius of Hervey, or of Blair, might have found ample scope for their solemn and impressive imagery, in the contemplation of a scene capable of supplying even the inimitable Hogarth

with an addition to his multitudinous emblems of death.

In that portion of the church-yard not yet devastated, a small stone records the name of the last vicar of Reculver, who, according to his own desire and directions, was buried here, after having passed the greater part of his life in a constant residence near the spot. Long after the destruction of the church, and when his parsonage-house seemed to be endangered by every storm that blew, this good man resolutely continued at his post, and could never be induced to leave it, until translated by his Divine Master to "a better inheritance, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

A new church has lately been erected about a mile westward of the ancient edifice.

Antiquaries have disagreed respecting the coins and pottery of the Romans found here in so great abundance as to have occasioned Du Fresnoy, as well as Archdeacon Batteley, to suppose that there was a mint and a pottery; and others to imagine, that the military chest, or a ship laden partly with pottery, and partly with coin for the payment of the soldiery stationed in Britain, was lost upon the dangerous rocks which border this part of the coast. Almost every high tide and every storm which considerably agitates the water, and changes the surface of the beach, throws up or discovers fragments of unglazed vessels, and various coins from Julius Cæsar to Honorius, and particularly of Tiberius and Nero. Some silver coins also, of the Norman race of our kings, are occasionally picked up; but it is remark-

able that, notwithstanding the abundance of fragments, no whole vessel or piece of pottery of any description whatsoever is known to have been found here. Many of the coins have been defaced by corrosion, and some of them appear to have undergone the action of fire; but many also are perfect, as if new. Parts of various weapons, ornaments, and articles of dress, have been collected here; knives, buckles, spurs, &c. but without having been an eye-witness of such discoveries, it is dangerous to hazard an account of them, taken from the imperfect descriptions and vague reports of oral tradition. It is said that the remains of a church, or some other considerable building, has been formerly seen at low water upon the Black Rock near this shore; and it has been conjectured that in that building, and not on the site of the dilapidated church before mentioned, King Ethelbert was buried.

Venerable Bede, as well as Solinus, mentions the haven or strait which separates Thanet from Kent, whose northern entrance was guarded by Regulbium, as its southern mouth was in like manner secured by Richborough Castle, and states that it was three miles broad. It was sometimes called the River Wantsumn; and by Tacitus, Portus Rutupensis; by Antoninus, Rutupis Portium; and by Ammianus Marcellinus, Rutupiaë, because of its two castles.

Through this channel not only Harold's fleet is related to have sailed, but it was for ages the ordinary course of ships southward bound, which thus were sheltered from storms, and enabled to avoid the dangerous shoals upon the coast.

The accounts delivered by ancient as well as modern authors, of the form and extent of this channel, are corroborated by the present appearance of the ground now reclaimed from the sea; and a very correct idea may be formed, not only of the course of its shore, but of the distinct canals in which, in process of time, when the accumulation of sand was progressively blocking up its mouths, the water which still for many years continued to flow through it was confined, until at length, being no longer of sufficient depth to admit vessels of burden, embankments were made for the complete exclusion of the sea, and the land thus obtained brought into cultivation: so that what was once correctly called the Isle of Thanet may now be regarded rather as a peninsula, being only separated from the rest of the county of Kent by a trench, in some places so narrow, that it is scarcely observed by those who pass over it. Indeed, at one of the principal entrances into Thanet, the bridge itself, which crosses this channel on the road from Canterbury to Sarr, is so inconsiderable, that travellers seldom notice it. Twine, who was mayor of Canterbury in 1553, relates, that he had conversed with persons who confidently affirmed that they themselves had seen vessels pass through the strait.

SARR,

once a port, and anciently written Serr, is a little village, consisting of a few neat cottages and two small inns. In 725 there was a ferry at this place, which King Eadbert gave by charter to St. Augus-

tine's monastery at Canterbury. At present it is not even within view of the sea.

In this neighbourhood, but out of the high road, is

CHISLET,

with its ancient church of Saxon architecture, containing numerous monumental records of the family of Denne of Wingham, and Jones of Chislet Court; and, besides other memorials of more modern date, a tablet, surmounted with a coat of arms between branches of laurel, in memory of John Wood, Esq. of the Fourth, or King's own regiment, who died at Mafra in Portugal, on the 10th of January, 1811, and lies buried at Torres Vedras.

It would be injustice to those who have shown so commendable attention to this place of divine worship, not to mention the singular neatness of every part of the edifice, which is uniformly pewed with deal, the whole of its walls and ceiling accurately white and clean, and its gallery furnished with an organ. The chancel has also a range of seats, or stalls, on each side, and the floor of red tiles is covered with a handsome carpet.

The road to Margate, after having passed through Sarr, divides; the left hand track leading to St. Nicholas, and that on the right to Birchington. From this branch of it the ruins of Richborough Castle are seen very distinctly on a gentle eminence about six miles southward.

CHAP. IX.

Isle of Thanet.—St. Nicholas at Wade.—Birchington.—Westbrook, and Sea-bathing Infirmary.

HAVING thus entered Thanet, the traveller will begin to compare its actual condition as viewed with his own eyes, with that which his imagination had formed respecting this nominal island. He will also feel, perhaps, some degree of disappointment, especially if fond of rural scenery, when he perceives that the well-wooded and highly cultivated fields, which bordered the sides of the road that he has travelled from Canterbury to the very verge of Thanet, are exchanged in the district at which he has now arrived, not indeed for arid sterility, or uncultivated wastes, but for bare and naked fields, without a tree or even a hedge to variegate the prospect.

Trees and shrubs, as well as cabbages and potatoes, might be made to grow and thrive here as in other parts of the island, if pains were taken to plant and cultivate them. There is no fault in the soil or in the situation; but there is so evident a neglect of horticulture here, that it might be supposed the inhabitants of the neighbourhood looked upon the sea as their garden, and the land as fit for nothing else besides drying their fishing nets.

It has been said, with full as much captious perverseness, as there ever was of fastidious prejudice to ex-

cite such censure, that when Dr. Johnson travelled to the Highlands of Scotland, he was continually sighing for trees! Johnson, however, only sighed for them in those parts of the country in which the penetrating and judicious mind of that great man pointed out a want of industry and culture as the cause of apparent bleakness and sterility. He knew better than to look for impossibilities, but disdained to blame the soil for the indolence, or negligence, or prejudices of the people. Had he traversed the Isle of Thanet, and observed so much attention as is there lavished upon the decoration of buildings, and so little taste or effort bestowed in assisting and encouraging nature in those rural ornaments which are ever pleasing, and almost every where attainable at the expense of a little labour, he would have been provoked to a transfer of what has been termed his splenetic disgust, from the inhabitants of the northern to those of the southern border of the kingdom.

ST. NICHOLAS AT WADE

is situated on an eminence a mile and quarter from Sarr, in the midst of open fields; and its ancient church affords an interesting object in perspective.

BIRCHINGTON

is a more populous village, a little on the south-east, but contains no remarkable object besides the church, and the mansion which formerly belonged to Mr. Queux, which King William III. made his

residence whilst waiting for a fair wind to embark for Holland.

The sea-coast, about a mile distant, deserves the attention of geologists. Here terminates, in a level beach, that fine range of chalky cliffs which forms a wall around the extremity of the island from Pegwell Bay, guarding Ramsgate, Broadstairs, and Margate, from the encroachments of the sea. Westward, a bank of shingle, or loose pebbles, scarcely above the level of the water, and barely sufficient to prevent the tide from forcing its course inland, extends to the distance of about two hundred and fifty yards from the spot where the cliff terminates, and then gently rising to the height of eight or nine feet, exhibits on the face of it a striated appearance, as if a layer of small but solid pieces of chalk were imbedded in a kind of liquid mortar or cement, which had consolidated them into one uniform substance. Upon this basis, which in different places varies in thickness, is a stratum of sand, chalk, and flints, intermingled together, and curled or waved so as to resemble the figures upon what is called marble paper; the chalk always occupying the hollow or concavity, and the waves being of various sizes, from a few inches in diameter to several feet. Flints are interspersed amongst the component parts of the mass, and not distributed in any regular order, but scattered at unequal distances. Above this variegated stratum is a layer of light sand mixed with black flints, and from eight or nine inches to three feet in thickness. A remarkably fine white sand borders the foot of this cliff, intermixed

also with flints of various sizes and chalky pebbles; and the fine sand of the sea-shore, in a few minutes after the waves have receded from it, becomes so firm and solid as to admit of being walked upon without receiving even the slightest impression; but as soon as the water is drained away, and it becomes dry, it loses its cohesion, and a very light weight is sufficient to penetrate and sink into it to a great depth. This evinces the nature of the quicksands which abound upon the coast, and explains in what manner ships, which once strike upon them, become gradually and immoveably imbedded in them, until the returning tides complete their destruction. It also corrects the vulgar error of there being an engulfing power, or vortex, into which it has been sometimes supposed that they were irresistibly drawn.

On approaching

MARGATE

from the south-west, the town is seen to some advantage; destitute however of any objects besides the tower of the church, and the top of an horizontal windmill, to diversify the prospect of open fields; or even a single tree to soften the features of the landscape.

One mile from Margate is a gentleman's seat, which, until lately, was for many years appropriated to the use of the company, who in summer resort to the neighbouring town for the purpose of sea-bathing. In ancient days it was the residence of the family of Daundelion, or Dandelion, whence its name (well

known to the visitors of Margate) and is said to have been once strongly fortified. It presents the only rural scene in the whole neighbourhood, and has groves and shrubberies. When it was open to the public, there were both a bowling-green and an orchestra to recommend it to visitors; and it still admonishes those who reside in its vicinity of the success with which they might cultivate their gardens, if they were so inclined.

Almost contiguous to Margate, in the small hamlet of

WESTBROOK,

stands the Sea-bathing Infirmary, a commodious building erected by the voluntary contributions of a number of benevolent persons, who were desirous of affording an opportunity of sea-bathing to the poor and indigent resident in the inland parts of the country, who, without such a provision for their accommodation, must be precluded a participation of the benefits to be expected in various diseases from the use of salt-water baths, and a saline atmosphere.

The late Dr. Lettsom, who was an active promoter of this benevolent plan, and to whom the merit and ingenuity of its original design has been ascribed, laid the first stone of the building on the 21st of June, 1792, in the presence of most of the company assembled at Margate, who, after an impressive oration delivered upon the occasion by the Rev. Weeden Butler, sen. of Chelsea, subscribed so largely towards the undertaking, that it was com-

pleted, and opened in 1796 for the reception of patients—His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales having graciously condescended to become its Patron.

The success of the managers of this establishment, in obtaining the support necessary for its maintenance, appears to have equalled the expectations of its warmest friends; and it is said, that numerous patients have derived great benefit from it. Whether, under all circumstances, the situation were well chosen, or possesses superior advantages over other parts of the coast, excepting merely in the very cheap conveyance by water, which enables the lower classes of the inhabitants of the metropolis the more easily to avail themselves of the charity, may perhaps be doubted.

The affairs of the institution are conducted by a Committee of Trustees and Governors, principally, if not entirely, resident in London; the chief and original intention of the founders being evidently to afford to persons who live at a distance from the coast benefits which, it was supposed, the indigent could not otherwise obtain; but the circumstance of a collection in aid of the funds having been annually made at the doors of the parish church, unfortunately gave rise of late to a dispute respecting the right, both of management and of admission into the infirmary, which was followed by such heats and animosity between the parties engaged in it, that it may not be altogether improper to introduce a few words upon the subject for the information of those visitors of Margate, who by *ex parte* statements might be liable to have their opinions of the merits

of the institution diminished, in consequence of the events which have recently happened.

It was contended on the one side, that the poor of Margate and its neighbourhood were equally eligible as the poor of any other parish whatsoever, and that subscribers to the Sea-bathing Infirmary, resident in the Isle of Thanet, had a right to participate in the direction and government of that institution, and to enjoy the power of admitting such persons amongst the native inhabitants, whom they deemed fit objects of the charity. It is assumed, on the other hand, that the inhabitants of the Isle of Thanet, however indigent their circumstances, or in other respects proper objects for admission into the infirmary, could never be considered equally in need of such assistance as that which this establishment was designed to afford: because *they* could, at all times, partake of the benefits of the water and the air, and, perhaps more advantageously, without being confined within the walls of an infirmary. That the principal design in view was not the medical aid to be obtained there (for without disparagement of the skill, or abilities of the medical attendants, it must be confessed that at least equal skill and equal abilities might be found elsewhere, and in hospitals constantly open to the whole public) but the accommodation of appropriate lodgings, sustentation, and attendance, in a situation better adapted for the enjoyment of sea-air and sea-bathing, than in places at a remote distance from the coast.

With regard to the direction of the affairs of the establishment, and the right of every subscriber to

partake in the management of it, such right was not denied, although the expediency of it might be justly doubted; but the greater number, both of original benefactors and annual subscribers, being inhabitants of the metropolis (to whom, by-the-by, the town of Margate is chiefly indebted for its opulence and prosperity, and almost for its support) it certainly must appear reasonable that the acting committee of an institution supported principally by their bounty, and designed for the use of their poor neighbours rather than the natives of the coast, should be selected from amongst themselves, who must be, at least, as capable of forming a proper judgment of the fitness or unfitness of those who were desirous of obtaining admission into the infirmary, as the local inhabitants, however respectable, or however impartial, of Margate, or the Isle of Thanet. Such appears to have been the nature of the dispute by which, for a season, Margate was rendered a scene of continual inquietude and animosity. The original question was soon forgotten in the tumultuous jargon of vehement and noisy altercation. This circumstance is noticed in these pages, not with the remotest design of arousing those passions which ought never to have been manifested by either party in the dispute, or to inflame prejudices which every friend of harmony and good order must unfeignedly lament to have at any time existed, but for the purpose of allaying the ferment which has been raised by partial and erroneous statements, and unfair views of the subject. It is introduced also, that the benefit of mutual good-will may be inculcated, between those whose character must essen-

tially suffer, and whose ingenuous feelings must have been outraged by the rash and inconsiderate, the hasty and mischievous efforts of many of their respective partizans, who eagerly rushed into the dispute, from no commendable motives, and certainly without forming any just estimate of the merits of the question at issue.

Reasons and persuasions can not compel any one to recede from the assertion of his rights, whether real or supposed; but upon liberal minds, they can scarcely fail to make an impression if properly urged and timely introduced. It is hoped that these remarks will not be deemed impertinent, or misapplied; and that a due consideration of the evils which arise out of vehement disputes—from jealousy and rivalry—from intermingling too much of secular concerns with ecclesiastical affairs—of mixing the magisterial with the clerical office—of refusing to others that right of private judgment, respecting matters of general concern, which we ourselves desire to exercise, and would not relinquish without a painful struggle—and of the necessity and importance of meekness, forbearance, and charity, amongst “all who profess and call themselves Christians,” will operate a becoming change in the minds of both parties, so that all those bickerings and animosities which have converted kind friends into bitter enemies, and introduced confusion and turbulence into the tranquil recesses of peace and concord, will henceforth, and for ever cease!

CHAP. X.

Margate.

MMARGATE has arisen from the humble condition of a village of poor fishermen, to a degree of extent and opulence scarcely exceeded by the most elegant and fashionable watering-places in the kingdom.

Until about the year 1787, it was little heard of: but from that period to the present time, scarcely a summer has passed, without adding considerably to the number of its houses and inhabitants, and increasing the influx of its occasional visitors. Those who have already partaken of its amusements become desirous of repeating their visits: and those who have never seen it are prompted by curiosity to examine a spot of which so much has been said.

The name Margate appears to have been derived from a gate or opening, by which a stream of water formerly descended from the high grounds behind the town, into the sea: Meer-gate or Mear-gate, in like manner as King's-gate, Rams-gate, and many smaller openings on the same coast are also distinguished.

An increased facility of travelling is one of the greatest of all the various improvements which have distinguished the present age; and to this circumstance Margate is partly, if not principally, indebted for the resort which is annually made hither, by

such numbers of the citizens of London, that, during the bathing season, its thronged streets have a close resemblance to those of the metropolis.

As it has increased in size and number of inhabitants, its trade and commerce have also risen in equal proportion. Margate now contains many well-built streets, squares, and ranges of lodging-houses, shops, and private dwellings, of a competent number of hotels (some of them very spacious and elegant) and of several public buildings adapted for the use of the company resorting hither for the purpose of bathing, or the amusement of a summer excursion. Its port has likewise increased of late years. Twenty-four thousand quarters of corn are said to be shipped here, annually, for London. Considerable quantities of coal are also imported from Newcastle, Sunderland, and other parts, for the local supply of the neighbouring district; and deals, hemp, tar, iron, and other commodities from Memel, Riga, and the Baltic. More than seventy vessels of different classes belong to this port, and the regular conveyances by the hoys are so much crowded with passengers, that three hundred arrivals have been noticed in a single day.

A voyage to Margate in the hoy is so tempting to many of the citizens of London, that it may reasonably be expected the cheap rate of conveyance, and the fun and frolic (not always very delicate, or very decent even in the recital, but perhaps not the less relished by some of the lower ranks, and even of *their betters*) which this mode of travelling often affords, occasion it to have a decided preference over

the slower, and more expensive conveyance in post-chaises or the stage-coach, and increase the number of visitors far beyond all sober calculation. On such occasions, the high and low, rich and poor, healthy and infirm, are all jumbled together *in sweet communion*, and afford to the humourist a treat almost sufficient to counterbalance the inconveniences of the voyage, the closeness of the stowage, and distress of sea-sickness.

The scramble for places to witness the arrival of these vessels (upon which the hopes of Margate are fixed) with their cargo of live-stock, and the grotesque figures which are seen amidst the throng, present abundance of subjects for the pen of the satirist, as well as the pencil.

“ Soon as thou gett’st within the pier,
All Margate will be out, I trow,
And people rush from far and near,
As if thou hadst wild beasts to show.”

THE BATHING-MACHINES,

which have advanced Margate into such fashionable repute, were originally designed and invented by Benjamin Beale, a very respectable man of the society denominated Quakers. The bathing-rooms are situated at the extremity of the high street near the harbour, and are commodiously fitted up, both for hot and cold salt-water. They have respectively belonging to each a considerable number of machines, which are driven by proper guides, well acquainted with the coast, to any requisite depth in the open

sea; and the beach being a fine level sand, there is not even the remotest probability of accident happening to those who prefer the use of them to the enclosed baths. Why they should prefer them is very obvious; because the water is always clean in the one, and seldom in the other. A train of these machines which at a distance resemble little covered waggons, may be seen moving gently into the water, almost every hour in the day, and afford a very lively and entertaining scene. The terms of bathing are, for a warm-bath 3s. 6d. for a cold-bath 1s. 6d. the guide included; but 1s. only, if without a guide; and at a diminished rate when two or more persons bathe together. So great has been the resort of company to Margate, of late years, that, notwithstanding the increased number of machines, individuals are frequently compelled to wait for a long time before they can obtain a dip! There are, however, at the baths, commodious apartments (although, it can not be denied, at some times *rather crowded*) in which the company may seat themselves to see or be seen, or walk about and amuse themselves with the chit-chat of the place, until their turn comes "to lave the briny deep."

As there is an uninterrupted influx of the sea to this part of the coast, and the beach, as before-mentioned is sandy, without any intermixture of weeds or ouzy ground, it might be presumed that the water has the advantage of great purity, but the appearance of it is notwithstanding, unpleasant to the eye; for the action of the waves upon the chalky cliffs has the effect of rendering it almost always

turbid, although when at rest, it soon regains its original transparency.

Formerly there was an old wooden pier at Margate, which having become ruinous, an act of parliament was obtained in 1787, for its reparation and improvement, and the erection of a light-house at the extremity of it. Large sums of money have been since expended upon the work, which is not yet completed, but may even in its present state be deemed a great improvement to the town. Doubts, however, are entertained respecting its permanent utility, for although it undoubtedly affords a good shelter to the vessels moored within the capacious basin which it encloses, the depth of water is daily diminishing, and it is feared that, unless some method can be discovered to prevent the accumulation of sand, it will at a period not very remote, become impossible for vessels of burthen to enter.

The pier terminates with a stone jetty, which affords a fine promenade in calm weather, but is so much exposed to the wind that, when it blows fresh from the north or east, it is little less difficult to walk here, than to keep upon deck in a storm in the Bay of Biscay.

The importance of safe anchorage, and a harbour on this coast capable of affording shelter in stormy weather, is generally acknowledged; and in proof of it, a marble tablet erected on the pier, records the preservation of the York, East-Indiaman, in the month of January, 1779, when driven from her anchors, as she lay homeward-bound in Queen's channel; when she was driven close up to the pier; and happily all the

crew as well as passengers safely landed ; and the ship afterwards repaired.

It is said that there is no intervening land between Margate and the north-east point of Greenland, a distance of 1400 miles : and, if there were, the keenness of the wind, when blowing hard from Spitzbergen, and the coast of Norway, would be sufficient to render this exposed aspect the coldest which an untravelled Englishman can imagine.

Great damage has been experienced from tempests here, particularly in the years 1755, 1763, 1767, and 1800, when the pier and many of the houses near it were much injured.

From the water's edge the shore rises boldly, so that the houses in Hawley-square, Cecil-square, and the contiguous streets, command a view of the sea, over the roofs of the intervening buildings. From a small fort also, which occupies a point of land southward of the harbour, and is a station for the officers belonging to the revenue, is an extensive marine prospect.

Margate is said to have been anciently a chapelry, dependant upon the neighbouring church of Minster ; but was made parochial more than five hundred years ago. The present church is spacious, consisting of three low aisles, and chancels at the east end ; and at the western extremity of the north aisle is a high square gothic tower, containing six bells. The church stands on an eminence, on that side of the town which is most distant from the sea, and contains many ancient monuments and tombs : one of the family of Daundelion, with the date 1445 ; and

a memorial of Thomas Smyth, vicar, who died in 1443; Richard Notfield, 1456; and Sir Thomas Cardiff, who, after having held the benefice fifty-five years, died in 1515.

An organ was presented to the church by the late Mr. Cobb, a respectable inhabitant and native of Margate. There are pews set apart for the use of strangers, who in return are expected to subscribe towards the maintenance of the lecturer, whose book lies open in the several libraries and toy-shops, for the purpose of receiving signatures; a mode of begging which, although practised at many watering-places as well as at Margate, is not on that account the less derogatory from the independence which ought to belong to the clerical character; and unfortunately reduces the clergy who condescend to it, to a level with the master of the ceremonies at a ball, or the keeper of a news-room. It is the less necessary at this place on account of the very ample endowment of the Vicarage. The site of the vicarage house is near the church, one of the most pleasant and eligible in or near Margate inhabited only by a gardener; but capable of being rendered at a trivial expense extremely commodious, and fit for the residence of the minister.

A charitable institution called Draper's Hospital, was erected early in the last century by Michael Yoakley, a Quaker, for the reception of eight poor men and women, who must be natives of Margate, or of the contiguous parishes of St. Peter's, Birchington, or Acol. This building occupies an eminence above the town, and commands an extensive prospect of the sea,

with the town of Margate, and a lofty horizontal wind-mill, which, in the scarcity of objects to form a landscape, is a very prominent feature in the picture.

In the year 1777, a market was established at Margate, and it is at present amply supplied with provisions, partly from the neighbouring district, but principally from London; for upon this part of the coast every thing which comes from that quarter is so highly esteemed, that it is said most of the vegetables, and even pot-herbs, used by the thousands who visit Margate, are brought hither by the hoy.

A good supply of fish, such as skate, wraiths, small cod, haddock, whittings, soles, and especially herrings and mackerel, in their season, may be procured here; but turbot is comparatively seldom to be met with, excepting at the tables of the opulent; and lobsters are usually scarce, and bear a high price.

In the centre of the town, and therefore very commodiously situated for the resort of company, are the assembly rooms. The ball-room is eighty-seven feet long by forty-three wide, and of proportionable height. The chandeliers, glasses, and other ornaments, are of correspondent magnificence; and there are marble busts of his Majesty, and of the late Duke of Cumberland.

The assemblies are suitably regulated by a master of the ceremonies, by whom due preparations are made for the company resorting to the rooms; and there is a ball twice every week during the season, which commences on the 4th of June (the King's birth day), and terminates on the last Thursday in October. The subscription is half a guinea for the rooms, and

one shilling and six pence in addition, every Monday and Thursday, exclusive of tea, for which each person also pays one shilling. Non-subscribers are admitted on ball nights at four shillings each, and one shilling is paid for the privilege of the evening promenade in the rooms on Sundays—which last is open to the subscribers for half that sum : but all persons, whether subscribers or not, who play at *whist*, *quadrille*, *commerce*, or *loo* (the only games allowed in the rooms without the express and particular permission of the master of the ceremonies) are charged *eleven shillings* for the use of two packs of cards, and *seven shillings* for a single pack, which, as the number of visitors is very considerable, enables the conductors, with good management, to defray the necessary domestic expences, and to retain a band of music for the entertainment of the company.

In addition to these amusements, a theatre-royal has been fitted up, with great neatness and elegance, and the scenery painted by Hodgings, an artist of distinguished merit. The libraries also, and reading rooms, besides containing a fund of entertainment for the gratification of the scholar, afford an agreeable lounge for general visitors ; and the civility and assiduity of the several proprietors, if not its greatest recommendation, is certainly amongst the most pleasing advantages which Margate has a right to boast, when compared with places of similar description. Where all deserve praise, it might seem invidious to particularize any one ; but as a trip to Margate bespeaks a predilection for maritime scenery ; to those who are fond of the ocean, or court the salubrity of its breezes,

it will not be improper to mention the marine prospect from Garner's, at the east end of the High-street; and only a tribute of gratitude for personal attentions and the accommodation afforded by the use of his excellent telescopes, thus to introduce that very intelligent and attentive bookseller to the notice of the reader.

Margate is a member of Dover, as one of the Cinque Ports, and included in its peculiar jurisdiction in all affairs of law and police. Some struggles are said to have been made, both to procure its exemption, and also to establish an independent and separate police; but without effect: and so long as the public peace and domestic harmony can be equally obtained without such a change, it is certainly best that the administration should remain *in statu quo*: for innovations are always uncertain and often dangerous; and the laws, and the mode of carrying them into effect, should never *alter* unless to *improve*.

The erection of police offices and multiplication of those myrmidons of power yclept constables and patroles, will neither improve the morals or the behaviour of the inhabitants of Margate or of its visitors. There lurks some unexplained, some unacknowledged cause for that eager anxiety which appears to prevail in this and some other places, to employ about one half of the inhabitants to rule over and direct the other half. It will not be found in superior philanthropy, nor in a love of good order or good neighbourhood: and it ought to be watched with jealous caution! *Verbum sat!*

The elevation of the ground above the town of

Margate, instead of increasing the beauty of that expanse of sea which presents itself on the north-east, places the spectator at too great a distance from the water, and totally excludes his view of the beach, and every object near the coast. The high chalky cliffs are also so precipitous, that portions of them are continually yielding to the repercussion of the waves, so that it is dangerous to walk either along the verge of the cliffs above, or the beach below; and many melancholy accidents have happened to careless and adventurous persons, who have neglected the cautions frequently and publicly given on this head. However, it must be confessed, that unless in the extremest heat of summer, when the refreshing sea-breeze may sometimes tempt a wanderer to the spot, the keenness of the wind in this part of the island is commonly so intense, that there are few whom curiosity, or the most delightful prospects of earth or sea, could induce to brave its penetrating influence. Indeed, the winter is felt with more severity on this coast, than in places many degrees northward: a circumstance which prompts to the insertion of the following anecdote.—

A gentleman of Margate returning from a neighbouring town, during a heavy fall of snow, in the winter of 1803, followed by a dog belonging to one of his relations who kept an inn in the town, was so completely exhausted by the effects of the cold, that he was hardly able to proceed on his way, and when arrived within about a mile of his habitation, stopped several times on the point of lying down in resignation to his fate; upon which the sagacious animal seizing hold of his coat literally tore the skirts off it, by his

efforts to pull him along. At length, being entirely overcome by the inclemency of the weather, he dropped down on the snow. It appeared that the faithful animal continued his efforts to arouse and awaken him, as his hands and face were evidently marked by the claws of the dog; but his exertions being ineffectual, he proceeded to his master's house, where by a great variety of expressive gestures, he endeavoured to entice somebody to go with him, by howling, running backward and forward to the door, leaping upon them, &c. All this not being sufficient, he took hold of a man's coat, and actually led him to the spot where Mr. S. lay in a state of insensibility, and nearly deprived of life. He was, however, by the prompt and judicious attention of his friends, restored; and in gratitude to his deliverer took becoming care of the dog, and caused his picture to be painted in oil colours, which, as a memento, was placed over his hall chimney, where it still records the fidelity, instinct, and sagacity of the generous animal, as well as preserves the remembrance of the gracious interposition of Providence, in so singular and happy a deliverance.

There are several narrow channels or openings through the verge of the cliff to the sea-beach between Margate and Broadstairs; all called by the appellation of *gates*, and these are the only places which admit of a landing upon this bold shore. In time of war they are usually kept either closed up, or guarded and watched with great circumspection; and they are supposed to be well known to the smugglers, whose illicit commerce *was formerly* carried on with

great systematic regularity in these parts. Indeed it may become a question whether the establishment of the revenue officers, conducted as it is at present, does not in many instances tend to produce, promote, and encourage the very evils which it was designed by the legislature to remedy and restrain. To say nothing of detachments of cavalry scouring the country with a few custom-house officers at their head, under the notion of searching for contraband goods, and the uproar and disturbance thus continually kept up here, whilst smuggling, instead of being prevented by it, is notoriously practised almost within sight of the parties, there are innumerable objections to the system altogether : but so long as a multitude of unprincipled persons derive more advantage from *conniving* at, than preventing illegal practices, and the fitting out vessels for contraband trade—so long as smuggling is a fruitful source of advantage to those who are employed to detect rather than to interrupt and *prevent* it, all remonstrances and all regulations will be vain.

CHAP. XI.

Broadstairs.—The North Foreland Light-house.

THE village of Broadstairs, about three miles from Margate, and nearly the same distance from Ramsgate, has, like its more opulent neighbours, risen into celebrity within the compass of a few years. There was, indeed, as its records inform us, a wooden pier in this place, built by the family of Culmer, and presented to the inhabitants in the year 1586: but the trade of the port having progressively decreased until only a few fishing-boats occasionally resorted to it, it remained in obscurity for many years, until the convenience of its situation for bathing, the accommodations and privacy which it seemed to promise to those who prefer a retired spot to the noise and crowds of Margate and Ramsgate, and, in some seasons, the impossibility of procuring lodgings, at any rate, in the last-mentioned places, concurred to bring it into repute.

Some vestiges of antiquity have been discovered here, and many coins of the Roman Emperors have been picked up on the shore. Lewis, the historian of the isle of Thanet, mentions that there was formerly an image of the Virgin Mary, called "*Our Lady of Broadstairs*," kept in an old chapel here, the ruins of which were long since converted into a dwelling house; and that ships were accustomed to

lower their topsails as they passed, in the same manner as at Reculver.

In the year 1574 a monstrous fish of the cetaceous kind was driven on shore at Broadstairs, and excited both terror and astonishment by its prodigious bulk, being twenty-two yards long, twelve feet in breadth, and fourteen in depth or thickness. The fins were each four feet six inches long, and between eight and nine feet asunder. The lower jaw opened to the width of twelve feet, and a tall man could stand upright in the orbit of the eye.

An arched portal leads to the harbour and pier, defended by gates and a portcullis. It was repaired, as an inscription upon it informs us, by Sir John Henniker (now Lord Henniker) in 1795.

New streets and terraces, and many detached houses, have suddenly made their appearance upon this once deserted spot, but the buildings are crowded together in such a manner that, with the exception of those which directly front the sea, and, from their elevation are consequently exposed to the utmost violence of the east wind, which often blows here with incredible force, they are in general equally destitute of picturesque beauty and domestic convenience. Whatsoever pretensions Broadstairs may have formerly had to rural simplicity, they have been unfortunately (but perhaps opinions may differ on this head) relinquished for an humble imitation of some of the very meanest suburbs of the metropolis, such as Kennington, Lambeth, and St. George's Fields. A library, however, has been established here, an hotel built, and the spirit of fashion has influenced the in-

habitants so much, as to have induced them to mark the streets with names, and the houses with numbers, like London and Bristol; and at Broadstairs, every half dozen or half score of habitations, perhaps consisting only of four or five rooms each, is dignified with the title of a *place*, a *terrace*, or a *crescent*. Such affectation, at all times childish and ridiculous, appears with its full force to those who happen to visit the spot at any other than the bathing season, when an empty fish-stall, and two or three butchers' and bakers' shops, exhibit the only indications that there are mouths to eat, in the whole village; for all the doors are then shut, and all the windows darkened: a fishing smack, and a few boats moored within the pier, remain the only sign of commerce, and no other appearance of trade but the buildings themselves, which evince that at some time or other much money has been spent here, to encourage the proprietors thus to bedizen their habitations, in order that they may appear to advantage for a few months in the year, although during the remainder of it they, in all probability, will be desolate and uninhabited.

Bathing machines and guides are to be procured here, upon the same terms as at Margate; and although this village be destitute of the gaiety of the latter, it has, as was before observed, the advantages of tranquillity and seclusion.

Broadstairs, corruptly pronounced Bradstow, is a hamlet to the parish of St. Peter, the church being about a mile distant, on an elevated spot. It is a handsome structure of early Norman architecture,

and remarkable for a crack or rent from the top of the steeple to its base, occasioned by the shock of an earthquake on the 5th of April, 1588.

The number of inhabitants of Broadstairs, including its summer visitors, probably far exceeds the population of St. Peter's; but the church is sufficiently large for the accommodation of them all. However, there is a dissenting meeting-house of modern erection, which, if any judgment may be formed from the throng of persons constantly resorting to it, indicates that the number of seceders from the establishment here, as well as in most of the neighbouring towns, is very considerable.

It can not but be a subject of astonishment to find such a propensity amongst an enlightened people to multiply the various classes, as well as the number of dissenters, insomuch as to afford reason for supposing that if this religious *mania* continue for many years longer, it will be almost as difficult to understand their several varieties of doctrine and modes of worship, as to acquire an intimate acquaintance with the Chinese characters; and without incurring the imputation of illiberality, it surely may be permitted to carry the simile a little farther, and to add, that as the difficulty of the task in the latter case vastly diminishes the inclination of students to undertake so arduous and hopeless a labour, so, in the former, the bewildered notions, absurdities, and contradictions which distract an inquirer, must often tend in a considerable degree to diminish his reverence for religious subjects, and occasion doubts respecting the sincerity, as well as the judgment, of those who con-

tend so vehemently for such "different modes of faith." It often happens in this particular, as it has often happened in other cases of great moment, that a misunderstanding relative to some apparently plain and obvious fact is an inlet to great heats and dissensions, which must on all hands be acknowledged highly detrimental to the true interests of religion, the end and aim of which is *peace*.

It is not in this place convenient to introduce a dissertation on the causes of heterodoxy which seem daily to multiply amongst us: but it is so evident that certain districts of the country are so much more infected with this evil, than other parts of it, as to point most obviously both to its cause and to its probable remedy. Vigilance, attention, assiduity, on the part of the ministers of the established church, both in the pulpit and out of it; the uniform exercise of consistent benevolence and unostentatious charity, blended with its constant concomitants, meekness and humility, without which learning is vain, and preaching ineffectual, will scarcely fail to secure to the ecclesiastical character, love, reverence, and esteem; and where such are the distinctions of her ministers, the Church of England will have few complaints of secession from her communion, of the increase of sectaries, the decay of piety, or the corruption of morals. In a word, the state of religion as well as of morals depends upon the clergy. When they are indolent, negligent, or haughty; when they "forget the venerableness of their sacred character in the lust after temporal domination;" when they forsake the beneficent office of the faithful pastor and watchful

shepherd ; and, instead of supporting the feeble and reclaiming the wanderer, “ devour the flock and clothe themselves with the wool,” how can it be expected that the fold should remain unbroken, or the prowling wolf deterred from approaching it ? In vain will such men preach against schism or fanaticism. In vain will they tell their hearers that the principles and tenets of the Church of England are perfectly intelligible even to the meanest capacity, and that it has no subtleties to perplex, and no ambiguities of which its members and professors have reason to dread the severest scrutiny. But when the doctrines of the Protestant Church are enforced not only by the lips, but in the lives of its ministers ; when the latter combine the duties of faithful and zealous teachers with the examples of kind, benevolent, hospitable, and friendly neighbours, when their acquirement of learning and means of beneficence are duly employed, without arrogance and ostentation, in meekness and in the spirit of Christian love, they will have nothing to fear from the utmost efforts of *pretenders to inward lights and sudden inspiration*, who would trample under foot the ecclesiastical establishment, and make its ruins the foundation of an hierarchy of superstition, bigotry, and intolerance.

Near Broadstairs is the promontory called North Foreland, the most eastern point of England, and supposed to be the Cantium of Ptolemy. It is the extreme boundary of the jurisdiction of the port of London, and of the Channel.

A light-house which was originally built here of timber, with a glass lantern at the top, was acci-

dentally destroyed by fire in 1683, and an octagon building erected in its stead, with an iron grate, in which a large fire was kept burning constantly during the night.

In 1730 an attempt was made to enclose it with glass, which was found to diminish its utility by obscuring the light so much, that after a short trial the design was abandoned. In 1793 the building was completely repaired, and received an addition of two stories, so that it is now more than an hundred feet in height, and considerably improved by the introduction of patent lamps and reflectors, twenty inches in diameter, under a dome covered with copper, and enclosed with plate glass. It stands in lat. $31^{\circ} 25'$. long. $1^{\circ} 29'$. The light is visible at the Nore, a distance of thirty miles; and the gallery which surrounds the dome commands a view of the Downs, the coast, and the Isle of Thanet, extensive and highly interesting. The building is under the direction of the Trinity-House, and the profits arising from it are appropriated to the Royal Hospital at Greenwich: every British vessel paying two-pence per ton, and every foreign vessel four-pence per ton, towards its maintenance.

Near the spot on which the light-house stands, it is believed that a great battle was fought between Earl Alcher at the head of the Kentish men, and Hunda the Dane in 853. Two Barrows, called Hackendon banks, have been supposed to point out the place of interment of those who fell in the conflict. In one of these tumuli, three urns of coarse, black, half-burnt clay were discovered; and in both

of them were oval cavities made in the solid stratum of chalk, covered with flat stones. A rude gothic building stands on the larger of the two eminences, with a tablet, on which is inscribed.

“ TO THE MEMORY OF THE DANES AND SAXONS, WHO WERE FIGHTING FOR THE POSSESSION OF BRITAIN (SOLDIERS THINK EVERY THING THEIR OWN) THE BRITONS HAVING BEFORE BEEN PERFIDIOUSLY AND CRUELLY EXPELLED, THIS WAS ERECTED BY HENRY LORD HOLLAND.”

Near this place is an opening through the edge of the cliff to the sea-shore, which was formerly denominated Bartholomew Gate; but upon the landing of King Charles II. and his brother, James Duke of York, on their way to Dover, the name of Kingsgate was substituted, as appears by the following distich upon the portal near the water's edge, in letters now scarcely legible:

“ OLIM PORTA FUI PATRONI BARTHOLOMÆI,
NUNC REGIS JUSSU REGIA PORTA VOCOR :
HIC EXCENSERUNT CAR. II. R.
ET JAC. DUX EBOR. 30 JUNII, 1683.”

In Saxon characters on the eastern side, towards the sea:

“ GOD BLESS BARTH'LEM GATE.”

On an eminence a little nearer Ramsgate stands the house originally built for the late Henry Lord Holland, and satirized by Gray, perhaps deservedly, for being destitute of shelter and devoid of taste. The former objection has been removed by the growth of plantations around it, which, whilst they

protect the mansion of Kingsgate equally from the keenness of the wind, and the sarcasms of the Poet, are a tacit reproach to the inhabitants of the vicinage, for their general neglect of similar embellishments : and the whimsical ornaments which were censured as childish, have been so modified by successive occupiers that they are at length become a source of amusement rather than objects of ridicule. The original design of the house was taken from Cicero's villa, on the coast of Baiæ. A fine Doric portico adorns the front, and the wings are faced with flints curiously cut ; and partly shaded with ivy. In the garden is a handsome column of marble called Countess pillar, which was erected to the memory of the Countess of Hillsborough, who died in Italy in 1767.

The sea has made encroachments here, and one of the ornaments of the garden called the Bead-house, a building in the form of a chapel, but of late years converted into a tavern, received so much damage by the falling of the cliff, close to its very walls, that it remained for a long time in a state which inspired terror in every one who viewed it, until at length yielding to the boisterous wind one stormy night it was wholly precipitated into the sea. The temple of Neptune, another edifice belonging to these grounds, and a good imitation of one of those towers or castles which were erected in the reign of Henry VIII. for the defence of the coast, is still standing.

Proceeding towards Ramsgate, the road passes an elegant modern mansion erected by Benjamin Bond Hopkins, Esq. and subsequently the occasional resi-

dence of the Marquis Wellesley, which has about thirteen acres of ground, pretty well planted, and laid out with considerable taste, but enclosed in such a manner as almost entirely to exclude the obtrusive gaze of the traveller.

Here the cliff is of great height, and the path along its edge being destitute of any kind of fence or guard, is in some places very dangerous: but the road for carriages is at a considerable distance inland, and is carried through the midst of fine and extensive fields, which, rich with wavy corn, agreeably compensate for the want of woodland scenery.

CHAP. XII.

Ramsgate.—Pegwell Bay.—Belle Vue.—Stonar.

RAMSGATE, on whichever side approached, will probably disappoint the expectation of a stranger, especially if he has previously allowed his fancy to take an excursive flight, directed only by the "Guide to the Watering Places." The streets are, for the most part, narrow and ill-built; and with the exception of a square and a crescent, and some detached habitations, the houses are in general mean and incommodious. But that which Ramsgate loses by a comparison with her rival sister, and the more stately buildings of Margate, is counterbalanced by a vast degree of superiority in its capacious harbour and fine pier. The latter is confessedly unrivalled, and is indeed a most magnificent work. It is twenty six feet in breadth, extends eight hundred feet into the sea, and then making an angle is carried towards the south so as to form a polygon, each face of which is four hundred and fifty feet in length, with an octagon of sixty feet at each end, besides the entrance, which measures about two hundred feet: so that the harbour, which is thus enclosed, contains an area of forty six acres.

By the ingenuity of that great mathematical adept and celebrated engineer Mr. Smeaton, a cross wall was introduced in the inner or upper part of the harbour, with sluices, by means of which the accu-

mulation of mud and sand which had threatened to block up the harbour, was removed and prevented, and a great improvement made in the construction of the work, by the facility thus afforded to the admission of ships in hard gales of wind.

This great undertaking commenced in the year 1749, and is not yet completed. The sums expended upon it are said to have already exceeded seven hundred thousand pounds; but enormous as such a calculation may appear, it bears no proportion to the advantage which may be expected to result from the safety thus afforded to the shipping—vessels of five hundred tons' burthen being safely admitted into the harbour, which has been found sufficiently capacious for the reception of more than three hundred sail at a time.

At the west head of the pier a light-house, with Argand lamps and reflectors, has been substantially built of white stone; and although not of great height, affords, independent of its utility a picturesque object when viewed from the town and the pier, as well as in approaching the coast by sea. A handsome residence has also been constructed for the harbour master, and wet and dry docks, store-houses, and other convenient appendages, which bid fair to advance the town of Ramsgate to a degree of commercial importance equal to the reputation which it has acquired as a sea-bathing place.

From the pier, which is the fashionable promenade of the visitors of Ramsgate, the coast of France may be discerned, and the towns of Deal and Sandwich; whilst the blue expanse of sea, thickly studded

with white sails, gives animation to a picture highly interesting.

In boisterous weather, indeed, a different scene presents itself; the smooth and glossy surface of the ocean is changed for foaming billows; and its gentle and health-inspiring breezes, for threatening clouds, and tempests fraught with destruction. The Goodwin Sands, which lie nearly opposite to this harbour (once the estate of an Earl of Kent, but overflowed by the sea in the eleventh century), are well known to mariners; and nautical history is replete with melancholy accounts of shipwrecks and storms upon this part of the coast. In order to guard against the danger of the sands, a vessel with a light constantly burning was stationed at the point, termed by sailors "the Galloper," during the whole of the last war; by means of which many fatal accidents were probably avoided.

The baths at Ramsgate are commodious, and some elegant additions and improvements have been recently made, which will undoubtedly increase their convenience and reputation. Machines also ply in the same manner as at Margate, and the beach is a fine sand, very soft and pleasant.

There is an Assembly-room, with its usual accompaniments; apartments for cards and billiards; and the routine of amusements is nearly the same, with the exception of theatrical performances.

Ramsgate has also its hoy, for the cheap and expeditious importation of visitors, as well as their sustenance; but it being sometimes both dangerous and difficult to attempt to weather the North Fore-

land, that conveyance is seldom, if ever, so much crowded as the vessels to Gravesend and Margate.

Ramsgate is in the parish of St. Laurence, a neat village, on an eminence about a mile and half westward. A commodious chapel of ease has been erected, and here, as well as in every town, and almost every village, in this part of the kingdom, the Methodists, Baptists, and Independents, have respectively their meeting-houses.

In the reign of Elizabeth there were in Ramsgate only twenty-five houses. In 1773 the population had increased to 500 inhabitants; was estimated in 1801 at 726; in 1811 had advanced to more than 3000; and has been every year since proportionably augmented.

The town is paved and lighted; a market has been established; and a court of requests for the recovery of small debts introduced here by act of parliament; but in civil affairs Ramsgate is within the jurisdiction of the Cinque Ports, and a limb (as it is called) of Sandwich, to which it pays haven-money and harbour-duties. The lodging-houses are so numerous as to form whole streets or rows, and they are all constructed entirely upon the London plan. Every thing which belongs to building seems in this neighbourhood to be undertaken and conducted with great spirit; but scarcely any body thinks of planting a tree, or a shrub, or even a cabbage. It is really lamentable that, where nature affords such opportunities, they should be so wholly neglected, as at Ramsgate, Margate, and even the smaller villages, on this part of the coast.

The principal buildings which have been added to Ramsgate, since it has become fashionable for the opulent and the idle to visit the sea-coast, are built upon the two eminences which flank the pier on the south and north sides. They command fine expansive views of the sea, and the dangerous road where the Goodwin Sands threaten the mariner with destruction whenever the winds blow with great violence from the east or north-east, or south-east points. A strange intermixture of old houses with new conveys an idea of the predominant influence of fashion, and pretty plainly evinces to what Ramsgate principally owes its rapid and recent increase. The roads in the vicinity are good, and indeed so they ought to be; for the cliffs are composed of the firmest chalk with flints interspersed in vast abundance; so that a little industry, with the aid of a very little skill, are all the requisites for forming good roads.

Ellington, St. Laurence, Monkton, the latter a village with some picturesque objects near it, and the neighbourhood of Minster, where Dourneva, daughter of Ercembert, King of Kent, founded an abbey, which was afterwards dedicated to St. Mildred, the daughter of the said Dourneva, who succeeded her mother in the government of this religious house, and was canonized for her exemplary piety, are all within the distance of an easy ride, or pleasant walk, from Ramsgate, and afford agreeable excursions to those who resort hither in the season. Notwithstanding the bleakness of this part of the Isle of Thanet, it is proper to add, that the salubrity of the air is evinced by the longevity of the inhabitants

throughout the whole district, and that neatness and fertility characterize the general appearance of the country, agreeable to the provincial adage,

*“ Insula rotunda Tanatos quam circuit unda
Fertilis et munda, nulla est in orbe secunda.”*

At St. Laurence was born, in the reign of King William III. Richard Joy, commonly called the strong man of Kent,—who broke a rope which could sustain thirty-five hundred weight, lifted up 2240 pounds, was drowned at the age of sixty-seven, and lies buried in St. Peter's church-yard in Thanet!

Near the extremity of Ramsgate harbour, southward, is an ascent from the beach immediately in front of the Crescent, by means of a geometrical staircase, or frame of timber, which has acquired the name of “ Jacob's Ladder ;” and at the termination of a handsome range of buildings, which occupy this eminence and afford a fine view of the Downs, is a small battery and station for artillery, which overlook the harbour and command the coast.

Near it are also some elegant baths of modern construction, into which the water is raised by a steam engine.

Passing through corn-fields, and along the verge of the cliff southward,

PEGWELL BAY

gradually opens to the view, and affords an interesting scene, especially at the season when the in

habitants of the neighbourhood resort thither for the purpose of catching soles, turbot, and other flat fish.

The Earl of Darnley has an elegant villa in the neighbourhood; and there is another inhabited by Sir William Garrow: but the gardens and plantations belonging to the latter evince as little taste in their arrangement and decorations, as could possibly be expected even from an attorney-general; the trees themselves are stunted in their growth, sickly, and withering. Dr. Johnson, who certainly knew but little of the matter, talked of dropping a seed into the ground, as if it were almost the whole business of planting; and it really appears as if the proprietor of this spot thought so too; and having scarcely placed the roots of his elms and larches in the earth, left them to the encroachments of the moss, the influence of storms, and all the wildness and irregularity of slovenliness and neglect. The hand of Shenstone planted groves, and his muse gave them perpetual verdure; but alas! the spirit of Shenstone never visited Pegwell! Instead of the hero's laurel, and the poet's bay classically waving their umbrageous branches over lawns which the hand of taste had decked with flowers, and fanning the tepid breezes of the ocean or the gentle zephyrs, Sir William Garrow's villa presents, here a patch and there a parterre, here a plantation of Scots firs and there a potatoe-garden, fenced with a *dying quick* in a style purely Irish; and for "music, image, sentiment, and thought," in never-dying verse,—the following polite and elegant invocation,

by the genius of the place, painted upon a board near the entrance :

“ It is impossible to pass at the cliff.
Beware of trespassing.”

In the little village of Pegwell, which rests on the brow of a descent at the termination of the cliffs, which have been already mentioned as bordering the north and eastern sides of Thanet, is

BELLE VIEU,

a tavern much larger and more commodious than its exterior appearance promises. To this spot the inhabitants of the neighbouring towns, and their visitors, make summer parties. The garden is fitted up with alcoves and seats, and has a bowling-green, from which the prospect of the bay is very fine. The level beach extends so far towards Sandwich, that the fishermen go out to collect shrimps, to a distance at which the human figure is scarcely discernible. The view also includes the line of coast, the village of Eastry, and towns of Sandwich and Deal, with their ancient churches ; and, more distant, the white cliffs and castle of Dover.

The mode of catching turbot, brill, flounders, and other flat fish here, is by extending nets of vast length, by means of posts or pegs set upright in the sand, so as to form projecting angles in different parallels, at considerable intervals asunder ; and as the water progressively recedes, the fish become entangled in the nets, and left behind.

A singular, but by no means an unpleasant effect, is produced by the glittering of the sun upon the sands; but they at the same time give the idea of sterility in a like degree as verdure renders inland scenery delightful.

Unless in the bathing-season, the accommodations to be met with here, will not greatly recommend Belle Vieu to the approbation of the traveller: but it must be acknowledged that the crowd and overflow of company in summer spoil this part of the country by affectation and extravagance, by a total disregard of economy, and a ready submission to the most exorbitant charges and flagrant impositions.

The master of Belle-Vieu tavern has the true *esprit du corps*; and in his best room hangs up, in a fine gilded frame, an admirable specimen of modest address, in an advertisement, which "respectfully informs the nobility and gentry visiting the Isle of Thanet, that his house commands the beautiful views following, that is to say, the neighbouring coast of France, Dover heights, and the castle, Barham Downs, the village of Ash, and the park at Waldershare; the towers of Sandwich, and even Canterbury cathedral;" and what is, perhaps, of still more importance, that "this is the only house in the island for salmon and turbot; and that shrimps may be eaten in perfection, fresh every day."

Upon which it may be remarked, that the beauty of a prospect is variously appreciated. As to Canterbury cathedral, it is scarcely to be discerned without a telescope. Sandwich, from whatever point it be

viewed, can never surely be called *beautiful*: it occupies a piece of low ground without a single inequality to vary the monotony of its buildings, or a single tree to break the harsh outline of the picture. The prospect-house built on the ridge of the hill which borders Waldershare-Park, is the most striking object in the landscape; and almost all parts of the Isle of Thanet, not absolutely buried in the sands, may boast of the advantage of seeing it. The only good reason for including Barham Downs in this enumeration of beauties, is, it may be presumed, because, *they are a great way off*; and, lastly, if turbot and salmon are only in Thanet to be found at Belle-Vieu; judging from the inn-keeper's charges for far less delicate fare, those who indulge their appetite must disregard their pocket.

From Pegwell, the road towards Sandwich descends into the level, which forms the western portion of the Isle of Thanet; and at Stonar, once a large and populous town, but now a village of only six or seven houses, is a bridge over the Stour, which creeps sluggishly along between the sand-banks, and appears to find its way with difficulty to the sea.

STONAR

is believed to have been the *Lapis Tituli* of the Romans; and at the Norman conquest it was a populous town; but, being destroyed by the French, who plundered and burnt it in 1385, never regained its former importance; but gradually sunk into its present obscurity: a few mean houses, and a building

erected of late years, for the making of salt, being all that now remain to constitute the appearance of a village.

It was on this spot, at the mouth of the Stour, that Vortimer defeated the Saxons; and here his bones were deposited as a security against future attacks of the enemy: his adherents being firmly persuaded that they would not dare to approach the remains of that great and victorious leader, of whose presence when alive they had stood so much in awe.

CHAP. XIII.

Richborough Castle.

ONE mile from Stonar are the interesting ruins of Richborough Castle, majestic even in decay, and highly worthy of the traveller's attention. Here the Roman legions sent to reinforce their army in Britain, and to maintain the possession of the country, were usually landed; and during a thousand years continued to be a place of great importance; but was at length reduced by the Danes in the eleventh century.

Richborough, Rutupiaë, Portus Tutruensis, Rhi-tupis Portus, Rhutupiaë Statio, Rhutupi Civitas et Portus, for, by all these appellations has this place been called, occupies an eminence in the midst of fields in tillage. Massive fragments of the walls mantled with ivy are interspersed amongst standing corn. Leland, as well as Camden, supposes that the ancient town surrounded the castle on the slope of the hill; the foot of it being washed on the east side by the strait, which formerly bounded the Isle of Thanet.

On the south-west side of the castle are still some remains of an amphitheatre, which was called by Leland, Littleborough, and by Stukeley a castrensian amphitheatre. The circumference is about 220

yards, rising 12 feet above the arena or pit; and 204 feet from north-west to south-east, and 212 from south-west to north-east.

The walls now remaining of the castle are in some places from 25 to 30 feet high, and 12 feet in thickness. The north side measures 560 feet in length, the west 484 feet, and the south 540. The workmanship evidently proves its Roman origin; the whole being built with flints faced with squared white stones, and courses of Roman bricks regularly laid at intervals of three feet four inches from each other.

At the south-east angle, the cliff forms a kind of natural barrier; and below it, on the south, is a vallum like an out-work. In the centre of the north-east side a square work juts out from the walls, forming the *porta decumana*, next the river. A water-course passes under it; and on the outer side, the distribution of the materials which form the walls is most evident. There are seven courses of smooth hewn stones measuring altogether four Roman feet, then two courses of bricks formed of the same clay as is still dug up and used for making bricks in the vicinity of Sandwich. The outer face is cased with stone, but the inner side filled up with an irregular intermixture of stones and flint, imbedded in a very strong cement or mortar. At the north-west corner is a large breach, probably the effect of time, rather than of hostilities; and another opening about the middle of the west side appears, from the smooth stones with which it is cased, and the regular pave-

ment in the passage, to have been one of the principal entrances.

The area within the walls is about four acres, and, as well as the surrounding field, is sown with corn. Near the east wall are the foundations of a building with a square raised floor, or pavement composed of flints and mortar, 140 feet by 100; and in the middle what is denominated St. Augustine's cross, 42 feet by 34, and between 20 and 30 feet by seven or eight: the short arms pointing due east and west.

Sommer conjectures that this was a chapel. Stukeley and Archdeacon Batteley, that it was a *prætorium*, or pharos. It has also been supposed a parade in front of a temple! Some loose stones are now seen upon it; and a trench renders it inaccessible excepting at one of the angles: but it is nearly overgrown with brambles.

"I ask'd of Time, 'to whom was rear'd the mass,
Whose ruins now thou crumblest with the soil?'
He answer'd not, but swifter shook his glass,
And flew with hurrying wing to wider spoil!"

Numerous coins, and other vestiges of remote antiquity, have been from time to time discovered here. Gough mentions having purchased a *Carausius Pax. Aug.* of a labourer at Loughton, a small hamlet, near the south side of Richborough; and that he picked up, among the rubbish, pieces of red tiles with raised lines upon them. The ingenious Mr. Boys, of Sandwich, took great pains to explore these ruins, and collected several *fibulæ*,

richly ornamented with red and blue stones, and gold open work; and also *pateræ*, both whole and broken.

Richborough Castle, or Rutupiaë, as was before remarked, defended the southern opening of the estuary, between the main land and Thanet, in like manner as Regulbium or Reculver, its northern entrance; and persons well acquainted with such subjects have not hesitated to pronounce both castles the work of the same architect, but so little now remains of the latter, that it is difficult to ascertain the fact, which must therefore rest for ever upon probability strengthened by the authority of preceding writers, who had opportunities of examining it whilst more of the structure could be traced.

Of the importance of such a station, until the mouths of the Stour were choked up with sand, and the harbour destroyed, there can be no doubt.

Ash, a populous village on a rising ground, about two miles south-west of the castle, and upon the road from Sandwich to Canterbury, is said to have been a burying-place to Richborough; many bodies having been dug up there; and sepulchral relics, as well as other antiquities, armour, weapons, implements, and domestic utensils of various kinds. A very curious balance, or scales, with the weights belonging to it, all in fine preservation, was found some years ago, as also coins of Nero, Faustinus, and Constantine.

Besides the antiquity of the place, and the curious relics which have been discovered in so great abundance, both in and near Ash, that village will also be

found deserving of notice, on account of the rural neatness of its cottages, and the high and admirable state of cultivation which distinguishes the neighbourhood, and is truly creditable to the cultivators of the land.

CHAP. XIV.

Sandwich.—The Cinque Ports.

THE town of Sandwich, whether considered as a sea-port, to which title it has lost almost all pretensions, or with reference to the number of its inhabitants, which, notwithstanding the diminution of its ancient importance, is estimated at nearly 7000, exhibits, perhaps, less appearance of commerce, or manufactures, or amusement, or gaiety, than any other town of equal size in the kingdom. Indeed it is extremely difficult to convey any adequate idea of the contrast which is here afforded to the crowded streets and busy *hum* which usually characterize a maritime town: the contrast between Sandwich, before the destruction of its harbour and port, and its present state, where dulness seems to have established an undisturbed reign. It would scarcely give too high a colouring to the picture, if a walk through this ancient town were compared to the solemn sadness of a visit to Herculaneum or Pompeia. At present, besides its narrow but well-paved streets, its decayed walls and gates, its dismal and dilapidated churches, and the narrow channel of the Stour, into which a few small vessels only find a passage from the sea, now at two miles' distance, little remains to supply materials for description; but the figure which Sandwich makes in the page of history will

abundantly supply that deficiency by the numerous events recorded of her condition in the days that are past.

Before the use of artillery, it seems probable that the high and thick walls of Sandwich were a very formidable defence. They are now mouldering in decay. Leland describes the town, in his quaint manner, as situated, "on the farther side of the river Sture, and neatly welle walled wher the towne stondeth most in jeopardy of enemies. The residue of the towne is ditched and mudde walled. Ther be yn the Towne, IV principal gates, 3 parochie churches, of the which sum suppose that St. Marie's was sum tyme a nunnery. Ther is a place of white-friars, and an hospital without the towne, first ordened for mariners disesed and hurt. Ther is a place wher monks of Christ-Church did resort when they were lords of the Town. The *caryke* that was sunk in the haven in pope Paul's time, did much hurt to the haven, and gether a great bank. The ground itself from Sandwich to the haven, and inward to the land, is called Sanded Bay."

About the year 837, an attack was made upon Sandwich by the Danes, who were repulsed with the loss of nine of their ships, and a great slaughter. It was reckoned among the possessions of St. Augustine's monastery at Canterbury, and delivered up by the monks in 1290: and King Edward III. afterwards gave certain lands for the farther and more complete surrender of the privileges which they had enjoyed. In the reign of Henry VI. the French effected a

descent upon the coast, and plundered and burned Sandwich.

Queen Elizabeth made her *progress* hither in 1573. The amount of the annual receipt of the customs formerly exceeded three thousand pounds. There was a staple for wool in the reign of King Richard II. which was removed hither from Queenborough in the Isle of Shepey : and in the days of Elizabeth a manufacture of woollen cloth was introduced by Flemish emigrants ; but at present the chief trade of the town consists in malt.

Sandwich takes precedence among the Cinque Ports, and the mayor is distinguished by carrying a black knotted staff, instead of a white one, which is borne by the chief magistrate of each of the other ports, and of the towns corporate, or limbs belonging to them.

The jurisdiction of the

CINQUE PORTS

is both very ancient and extensive. Their endowment, with the privileges and immunities which they still enjoy, is of so remote an origin that no authentic records are preserved of it ; but they have been repeatedly allowed and confirmed by royal grants and charters, and are holden as prescriptive rights. Dover, Sandwich, and Romney, are mentioned in Domesday Book ; but Hastings and Hythe were added by William I. : and the ancient towns of Winchelsea and Rye are said to have been annexed before the reign of King John. According to this

account the term Cinque Ports, might seem to have been bestowed upon them, either by the Conqueror, or one of his early successors; but no such circumstance has been noticed in history, nor any account of it preserved in the records, or recited in either of the numerous charters by which different sovereigns have confirmed and enlarged the privileges of this distinguished body. At the same time it is remarkable that the Romans built five principal stations or watch-towers upon this southern coast of Britain; and there may be some ground for supposing that the establishment of the Cinque Ports originated therefrom. That these ports, both at the time of their being incorporated, and for many centuries afterwards, were deemed of great importance to the safety of the country in general, and on that account so remarkably distinguished and highly privileged, is unquestionable. They were, in fact, the keys of the kingdom, and their ships constituted its whole naval force, so that both in peace and in war the Cinque Ports ranked high in political importance. In peace they formed a nursery for seamen; for here, and here only, was the rendezvous of the maritime strength, however inconsiderable, of the country. In war, when the exigences of the state demanded such assistance, they were engaged to fit out fifty-seven ships, and to supply their compliment of twenty-one men and a boy to each vessel, who were to attend the king's service for fifteen days, at the expense of the ports, and as much longer as their services were required—upon being paid by the Crown.

Each of the ports had annexed to, or incorporated with it, some of the adjacent towns, which were denominated limbs or members, and were taxed or assessed together with that Cinque Port to which they respectively belonged; and assisted in providing and equipping their quota of shipping for the public service. Thus Margate, as was before mentioned, is deemed one of the limbs or members of Dover; and Fordwich, Deal, Ramsgate, Reculver, Sarr, Stonar, and Walmer, are annexed to Sandwich, and participate in the privileges of that port. The Cinque Ports with their members form together one Incorporation. The principal officer or chief magistrate of each being termed a mayor (with the single exception of *Seaford*, where he is called Bayliff) who is annually elected in the same manner as in other towns corporate; and the mayor and two jurats, or assistants, are justices of the peace. The several ports being under the superintendence of one chief officer, who is styled Lord Warden and Admiral of the Cinque Ports, and Chancellor of the same, and Governor or Chief Constable of Dover Castle; a situation of so great trust and dignity, that it has been always held by a person of the highest distinction, and sometimes even by a prince of the blood royal. The Lord Warden holds his court of *Lode Manage* at Dover, for the appointment of skilful and experienced pilots, to conduct ships into the ports upon the coast. These are divided into classes, and their duty extends to Deal, Ramsgate, and Margate; there being, by an act of parliament passed in the reign of King George I. fifty

pilots at Dover, fifty at Deal, and thirty in the Isle of Thanet.

There are also holden, a court of *Shepway*, for swearing into office the Lord Warden; a court of Admiralty, of which the jurisdiction reaches to the mouth of the Thames; a court of Chancery for the Cinque Ports; and a court of *Guestling*, or Brotherhood, connected with the Admiralty, and having some analogy to the establishment of the Trinity House in London.

The office of the Lord Warden requires, on the one hand, that he should direct and enforce the performance of the duties of these ports; and on the other, superintend the conservation and maintenance of their privileges, among which are the following :

The inhabitants, or, as they are always designated in the royal charters, the BARONS of the Cinque Ports, are exempt from all taxes and tolls; have a power to compel all who reside within their boundaries to plead in their courts; may punish all offences committed within their jurisdiction, and all murderers and fugitives from justice, and foreigners as well as natives who are convicted of theft. Each port may have a pillory and a tumbrel or ducking-stool, for the punishment of scolding or brawling women, and other transgressors; to enjoy the power of raising mounds or banks in any man's land, to prevent incursions and breaches of the sea; and the right to convert to their own use all lost goods or strayed cattle, if not claimed within a year and a day; to have right of common, and to cut down timber and trees growing thereon; to convert to their own use, all such goods and mer-

chandize as may be found floating on the sea-shore, thrown out of ships in a storm, and also those driven on shore, when no wreck or ship is in sight: that the ports respectively shall be guilds or fraternities, with the franchises of *Court Leet*, and *Court Baron*; also to have a power to assemble and hold a port *mote*, or *parliament* for the Cinque Ports; to punish infringers of their privileges, make by-laws, and hear appeals from inferior courts; and that their *barons* have the privilege of *supporting the canopies over the head of the king and the queen at the coronation*; receiving the said canopies and the staves thereof, for their fee.

Great and important as many of their privileges appear, especially those which relate to their exclusive and peculiar jurisdiction, and the administration of justice and cognizance of offences (the power of life and death being thus vested in the Magistracy of Sandwich, as well as the rest of the Barons of the Cinque Ports) it has been asserted that only one instance is upon record of the exercise of such authority here,—namely, in the case of an inhabitant of Ellington near Ramsgate, who was tried at Sandwich, convicted of the murder of his wife, and suffered death. But this is probably a mistake; for we find amongst other complaints made by the corporation, when the accumulation of sand threatened the destruction of the port of Sandwich, and blocked up the mouth of the river, that it was urged that, as Barons of the Cinque Ports, they possessed the power of inflicting the punishment of death upon such offenders as were convicted of capital crimes; but that they were likely to be de-

prived of that privilege, by the river being no longer of sufficient depth to allow of *drowning* malefactors, according to ancient custom !

Whether there was yet a sufficient quantity of water remaining in it to admit of the use of the *ducking-stool* before alluded to, or whether the good women of Sandwich no longer required, or no longer submitted to that discipline, does not appear. At all events, it is a *remarkably still* town, and perhaps that circumstance may be attributed partly to the terror of such a machine, and such an authority in the hands of their lords and masters ; and may account for there being less noise amongst the females than in some other places.

On the right and left of the entrance gate are two barrows placed at equal distances from the road, and supposed, to be of Roman origin ; and many vestiges of antiquity have been dug up, of which some of the most curious and valuable were preserved in the very interesting collection of Mr. Boys, the learned and indefatigable historian of Sandwich.

In front of the Guildhall, which is an inelegant building chiefly constructed of timber, and standing in the market place, is the date, 1579.

The churches bear evident marks of great antiquity, and contain some good specimens of Saxon pillars and arches, as well as ancient and curious monuments, of which accounts have been repeatedly published.

A balance bridge was made in 1762, over the river Stour, close to the town, and forms the entrance to the Isle of Thanet, which, viewed from the gate of Sandwich, lies stretched out in a perfect level beneath the

eye for several miles: the white cliffs near Ramsgate, and the eminences north-east of that town, being the boundaries of the horizon.

About one mile from Sandwich, near the Dover road is

WOODNESBOROUGH,

a small village, in which, near the church, is an eminence said to have been raised by the Saxons, as a pedestal or *high place* to sustain the image of their idol *Woden*, whence its name.

EASTRY,

another village in the neighbourhood, was unquestionably the residence of Saxon kings. The church is very ancient and spacious, richly adorned with interlaced circular arches and zigzag ornaments; and there are in the chancel eight stalls decorated with carved work, and fitted up in the same manner as in the choir of a cathedral.

At Northburn, in the time of Henry VIII. were standing the ruins of a stone edifice called King Egbert's palace; and here, according to Leland, were dug up the skeletons of two children, one of them with a large iron pin or spike struck in the scull; from which it was inferred that these were the bones of the young princes, Ethelbert and Etheldred, brothers of Egbert, said to have been murdered in 665: although Eastry had the honour of being considered the place of their sepulture, which superstition marked in an especial manner; for not only miracles were believed

to have been wrought there, but a lambent flame was reported to have hovered continually over the sacred spot in which their remains were deposited.

The coast between Sandwich and Deal almost entirely consists of an accumulation of sand, which forms irregular eminences, very arid and dreary in appearance, and interspersed with bog and marshy ground, very deceitful to the foot of the passenger; so that travelling by way of *the sand hills*, as the inhabitants of the neighbourhood denominate them, is both disagreeable and dangerous; and the other road more inland is usually preferred, although it considerably lengthens the journey.

CHAP. XV.

Deal.—Walmer Castle.

DEAL is a sea-port without an harbour; but the Downs between the shore and the Goodwin Sands affording a secure road for ships, the town is usually crowded with a succession of visitors, and persons engaged in maritime affairs: passengers also being usually landed here, letters brought on shore, provisions taken in, and vessels, both outward and homeward bound, commonly waiting for orders and instructions.

Deal is supposed to have been the Dola of the Romans, where Julius Cæsar effected a landing on his first descent upon the coast of Britain. As a limb of Sandwich it was incorporated in the reign of King William III. under a mayor, recorder, and twelve *jurats*. The custom-house, naval storehouse, and hospital, afford convincing proofs of its flourishing condition and increasing opulence. The pilots stationed here are esteemed remarkably skilful, bold, and active; and the assistance afforded by them to vessels in distress, whether belonging to the royal navy or private traders, entitles them to be ranked amongst the most useful and effective classes of British sailors.

The appearance of the Downs, when enlivened by the arrival of a large fleet, is extremely interesting,

and exhibits a noble proof of the naval strength and commercial importance of the country.

As the inhabitants of Deal may be considered almost amphibious, and the attention of those who visit the coast will be principally directed to its fine beach and the shipping, the buildings of the town, and the distribution of the streets, must not be too fastidiously criticized. If they appear dirty and narrow in those parts to which the greatest traffic occasions the greatest resort, some allowance must be made for the low and level shore on which the houses were originally erected, and for the meanness of the buildings themselves, constructed at a period when, in all probability, there was but little expectation that Deal would ever arrive at its present degree of opulence and importance.

Deal affords a complete contrast to Sandwich. On visiting the latter, a stranger, as he wanders solitary through the town, in which "the pavement dreads the turf's encroaching green," and scarcely a human being is visible even at noon-day, will be induced to ask, Where are the inhabitants? But as soon as he arrives at Deal, he is surrounded by so great a throng as to obstruct his passage along the streets, and is tempted to exclaim, Where can such a multitude find habitations?

It was at Deal that Perkin Warbeck, the pretended Duke of York, landed, when he was encouraged to claim the crown, upon perhaps the weakest and most silly pretensions that ever disgraced the heads of a faction in any age, or any country.

The fine open beach southward of the town affords

a charming view of the Downs and the shipping; and here the road passes near the Castle, which is surrounded by a wet ditch, over which is a drawbridge. This fortification consists chiefly of a circular tower for the residence of the captain or governor, and one small battery, which commands the beach on that side of the town, as Sandown Castle does on the opposite side; the latter being situated close to the water, and also mounting a considerable number of heavy guns.

One mile from Deal are spacious barracks, both for horse and foot, which occupy a large extent of ground, and, if not magnificently, are certainly commodiously built, in an airy and pleasant situation fronting the sea, and disposed regularly in line within their respective enclosures, by the side of the turnpike-road leading towards Dover.

In the immediate vicinity stands

WALMER CASTLE,

one of the forts erected by King Henry VIII. for the defence of the coast, and now the residence of the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports. The dry ditch, with which it is partly surrounded, has been converted into a garden, which has a singular but pleasing effect; and the principal apartments command a fine view of the Downs, with the town of Deal and parts adjacent. The Lord Warden officially claims a right of warren, and exercises jurisdiction over a considerable part of the district between Walmer and Dover castles.

Among the distinguished personages who have filled this honourable and important office, are recorded the names of Godwin, Earl of Kent; Odo, Bishop of Baieux, brother of the Conqueror; Edward, Prince of Wales, commonly called the Black Prince; the Earls of Gloucester, Kent, March, and Cambridge; Edward, Duke of York; Henry, Prince of Wales; Thomas, Earl of Arundel; Humphrey (distinguished by the appellation of *the good*) Duke of Gloucester; Humphrey, Duke of Buckingham; Edward, Duke of Somerset; Neville, Earl of Warwick; Richard, Duke of Gloucester (afterwards King Richard III.); Henry, Duke of York; Henry (Fitzroy) Duke of Richmond; Henry, Lord Cobham; the Lord Zouch; Villiers, Duke of Buckingham; Thomas (Howard), Earl of Suffolk; Robert, Earl of Warwick; George, Prince of Denmark; Sackville, Earl of Dorset; James, Duke of Ormond; Frederick Lord North, Earl of Guilford, K. G.; the Right Hon. William Pitt; and, at present, Robert Banks, Earl of Liverpool, K. G.

An elaborate History of the Cinque Ports has been published, in which every minute particular respecting those corporations and establishments, and their ancient and present state, may be found.

The village of Walmer occupies the sloping side of a gentle eminence, and contains several respectable-looking mansions. A pleasant ride through Upper Deal leads to Waldershare, a seat of the Earl of Guildford, erected by the father of the late premier, Frederick Lord North, in a spacious well-wooded park, which rising on the northern side into

a lofty ridge, commands an extensive prospect over a considerable part of Kent, and almost the whole of the Isle of Thanet, and is reciprocally an object in perspective from a great distance northward.

The church of Waldershare is very small, and nearly hidden by a solemn grove of yew-trees. Within are many ancient memorials of the family of Monins, formerly lords of the manor, and possessors of the estate now belonging to the Earl of Guilford.

The promontory between Walmer and Dover, called South Foreland, sustains the church of St. Margaret at Cliffe; the tower of which is partly ruinous, but the spacious and well-proportioned nave still preserves its ancient grandeur. On the west side of the tower is a Saxon arch of exquisite workmanship, and in the north porch another, but sadly defaced with a coating of white-wash. Thus it is that with mischievous zeal, ignorant and tasteless persons, notwithstanding their aversion of expense, make the foulest havoc among the relics of architectural splendour, when subjected to their management in the character of churchwardens.

The chancel of St. Margaret's is roofed or ceiled with a wainscot of chesnut; and amongst the modern improvements of the interior, an altar-piece, or screen of the Corinthian order, has been introduced.

The inequalities of the ground in the vicinity of Dover Castle alternately conceal and display its lofty turrets and hoary battlements, until at an abrupt turning of the road, one of the most striking prospects which imagination can conceive is suddenly presented—the town of Dover, with its port, and

pier, and harbour, at the mouth of a narrow valley between two lofty promontories, which seem to recede from each other as if divided asunder by some mighty convulsion of nature. On one side, the formidable batteries and extensive fortifications belonging to the Castle; on the opposite heights, redoubts and military works which require the pen of an engineer to describe them intelligibly; a rapid river descending through the valley; the sea; the ships; the distant hills of the French coast; and the stupendous elevation from which these several objects are thus, at a single glance, opened to the wondering eye, can not fail at once to delight and astonish the traveller. The impression made by such a scene will be heightened by its bringing in review the important and diversified events, both military and political, which assimilate themselves with the history of the town and castle of Dover, and procured for them the title of *Clavis et Repagulum Regni*.

CHAP. XVI.

Dover-Castle.

THE historian points with trembling hand to the remote antiquity of these fortifications. They have been ascribed to Julius Cæsar; but by some, who venture to contend against the probability that there was time and opportunity for the erection of so great a work during that emperor's abode in Britain, are supposed to have been made in the reign of Claudius.

The British name *Dour* appears to have been Latinized into *Dubris*, and changed by the Saxons into *Dover*, which is recorded to have been a town of considerable size and opulence in the reign of Edward the Confessor, by whom it was incorporated.

On the surrender of Dover Castle to the Conqueror, Odo, Bishop of Baieux, brother of that sovereign, was appointed governor, and dignified with the earldom of Kent; but this haughty and imperious prelate, having soon excited the jealousy of the monarch, was displaced, and a more trusty Norman appointed to succeed him in the government of this important fortress. At that period, considerable additions are said to have been made to the original works; two of the outer walls were built, extending to the edge of the cliff, and also certain turrets or towers.

In the reign of Henry II. about the year 1153, a new wall was built, which enclosed the old fortifica-

tions; and in the time of his grandson Henry III. a most gallant defence was made by the garrison under Hubert de Burgh, the then governor, who, with his domestics, and about an hundred and forty soldiers, successfully resisted Lewis, the Dauphin of France, by whom the Castle was besieged; and compelled the enemy to retreat. However, the attack was renewed after a short interval; and the same governor nobly refusing the proposals insidiously made to induce him to surrender the place, and having a second time repulsed the assailants, was, in consideration of his distinguished loyalty and eminent services, raised to the dignity of Justiciary of England, Warden of the Cinque Ports, and Constable, for life, of the Castles of Dover, Rochester, and Canterbury, with a salary of a thousand marks per annum.

In the civil war, in 1642, it was daringly seized for the parliament by ten or twelve resolute men, who, headed by Drake, a zealous and enterprising republican, with the assistance of scaling ladders, reached the summit of the cliff where it was deemed inaccessible, and was therefore the less carefully guarded; and having cut down the sentinel, threw open the gates; and the garrison, in the suddenness of their alarm, supposing themselves attacked by a great force, were so panic-struck, that they immediately surrendered to these desperate adventurers.

It was afterwards suffered to fall into decay; but the frequent hostilities between England and France rendering the condition of a fortress situated upon the frontier of the kingdom, and within a few leagues of the enemy's coast, of very great importance, it

was determined that Dover Castle should be completely repaired and fortified; which was accordingly done, under the superintendence of the most skilful engineers and military architects.

The principal entrance is on the south side, by a grand flight of steps from the verge of the town to the gates, of which there are three, one within the other. The ancient walls being eighteen feet in thickness, and the whole strongly barricadoed, before the use of artillery must have been impregnable; and at present they are so flanked with batteries, and guarded by heavy cannon placed at the several embrasures, which completely overlook and command the avenues of approach, that it may be deemed equally safe from any efforts of an enemy.

In one of the gates, or more properly speaking, *under* it, was formerly a dungeon for prisoners; and, according to tradition, many persons of rank and distinction have at different times been here incarcerated. There is still a casemate, in which refractory soldiers are occasionally confined, and a prison for debtors and felons, belonging to the peculiar jurisdiction of the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports.

In some of those well-intended surveys which benevolent persons have gratuitously undertaken, the condition of this prison has been attentively examined; and it may be hoped, for the sake of justice, that the suggestions to which those reports have given rise have been attended to by all the parties concerned. Indeed it may be asked, who is not concerned in the general interests of humanity? and who can witness, without heart-rending emotions, an

unnecessary severity of punishment, even of the unworthy and the vile, when their sufferings, instead of having a tendency to diminish the number of offences by the terror of example, only render them callous to the influence of good advice, and thus become incentives instead of antidotes to vice in others.

Dover Castle, although it is situated close to the sea-side, has the advantage of a copious supply of the purest water; the wells being dug through the solid rock to a depth of nearly four hundred feet.

The angles of the outer walls are strengthened by towers of various forms and dimensions, which are particularly distinguished by the names of those governors or wardens by whom, or during whose administration, they were respectively built. Beginning at the south-west angle near the cliff on the town side, are Canon's or Monk's Gate, with a strong battery, Rokesby Tower, Chilham Tower, Hurst Tower, Say Tower, Gatton Tower, Peverell, Beauchamp or Marshal's Tower, Port-Guestling or Mary's Tower, Fienmes' or New Gate, Clopston Tower, Avaranches or Mauncell's Tower, Neville or Pincester's Tower, Earl Godwin's Tower, and Ashetisfordian Tower. Near the edge of the cliff is the celebrated piece of brass ordnance called Queen Anne's Pocket Pistol. The history of this gun is simply as follows: that it was cast at Utrecht in 1544, and highly ornamented, being intended as a present from the States of Holland to Queen Anne: and it is said to be capable of carrying a twelve-pound shot to the distance of seven

miles; but the account which has been given of the inscription upon it being,

“ Load me well, and keep me clean,
I'll carry a ball to Calais Green,”

is entirely fabulous, the words in the original language being merely these :

“ Breck settet al murt eude toel
Bin ic ghetin
Doer Berch en dal boest minen bal
Dan mi gesmeten.”

That part of the promontory which is occupied by the buildings belonging to the ancient keep, is three hundred and twenty feet above the level of the sea, rising almost perpendicularly. The view from this spot is truly sublime. The sea, whose waves even in the roughest weather appear much diminished by the height from which they are viewed, in calmer seasons reflect on its polished surface, as in a mirror, all the outlines of this picturesque coast, as well as frequently the hills of Bologne and the opposite shore; and the eye of the observer wanders from North Foreland and the spires of Reculver over Minster, Ramsgate, and Sandwich, to the Godwin Sands, Dunkirk, Calais, and the French hills, stretching across the water to Dungeness Point and light-house, which appear as if standing in mid-channel; and then resting on the heights westward of Dover, with the batteries and fortifications in full view, the modern buildings of the town, its ancient

churches, and the picturesque ruins of the priory, falls on the beech at the very spot which has been introduced as the foreground of the picture of the landing of Charles II. at the Restoration.

Within Dover Castle, and on the highest point of the land, are the ruinous walls of an old church, now dilapidated, and the vaults under part of the building converted into receptacles for coal, but with a contiguous burying-ground still occasionally used for the officers of the garrison stationed here; the meaner ranks, who "go down with less ceremony to the stones of the pit," being deposited on the outside of the Castle precincts.

Among the persons of note buried within the castle are Sir Robert Ashton, Knt. Constable, Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, Admiral of the Fleet, Chief Justice of Ireland, Lord Treasurer, and one of the Executors of the will of King Edward III.; and Henry Howard Earl of Northampton, also Lord Warden of the Ports, &c.

The distance from the port of Dover to the opposite shore being only nine leagues, the voyage, with a fair wind, is often performed with a single tide; and from the verge of the cliff near the castle two distinguished aëronauts Jeffreys and Blanchard ascended with a balloon in the infancy of that wild and adventurous amusement, in the year 1785; and crossed the Channel into France.

Dover having the advantage of a pure sea, a fine beach, and salubrious air, might justly aspire to at least equal rank with the rest of the towns upon the same coast, in the character of a sea-bathing place;

and indeed in the former of these particulars it has been more favoured by nature than some of its rivals. Bathing machines, with every convenience and accommodation, are stationed in the bay ; and there are both hot and cold baths properly fitted up (and the water changed for every person who bathes) which may be used at any hour, and at the shortest notice. But if ever Dover should become the resort of more company than at present, it is difficult to imagine where room will be found for an increase of buildings, the town being completely cooped up between the hills, and shut in by lofty and precipitous cliffs.

From the peculiar circumstances of its situation, the military force almost constantly stationed here, the facility of embarkation, the establishment of regular packets, and its intercourse with the Continent, Dover is almost always crowded with strangers ; and accordingly great pains have been taken to render the principal inns commodious, and every description of conveyance easy to be at all time procured.

Of seven churches in Dover, two only remain : St. Mary's, a spacious edifice erected in the eleventh century by the Prior and Convent of the neighbouring monastery of St. Martin for the use of the town, and given or rather confirmed to the inhabitants by Henry VIII. at the dissolution of religious houses. The west end of the building has a fine old arch highly ornamented ; and in digging a vault some years ago, it was discovered that the foundation of the tower had been laid upon the remains of a Roman bath.

Among numerous monumental records is an in-

scription painted on a black board placed at a great height near the east end of the middle aisle in memory of the British Aristophanes, Samuel Foote, who died at the Ship Inn, in this town, on his way to France (whither he was going for the recovery of his health) and was buried here. This mean memento has been most unaccountably dignified with the pompous appellation of a cenotaph in a recent publication, which ought not to have omitted, that it was a tribute of friendship and respect, and that it concisely describes Mr. Foote as having possessed a heart ever warm in the cause of humanity, and a hand ever open to relieve the distressed. In this church are also deposited the remains of the poet and satirist Churchill.

Here is still continued a most glaring impropriety, which every friend of decency and decorum must desire to see removed from a place of divine worship; and every one who reads the history of Dover will be astonished to find remaining after the *plain hint* which the corporation received from royalty itself: a range of highly ornamented and distinguished seats occupying the whole east end of the recess behind and above the communion table, close to which (if not upon it) the mace borne before the chief magistrate is placed during his attendance at divine worship. With all becoming dislike of superstition, and revolting from the very heart's core at the idea of bigotry, on the one hand, and with all proper respect for the dignity of the magisterial office on the other, it may surely be said, that such an appropriation of seats is not more becoming than the abominable cus-

tom of holding elections in churches, by which the house of prayer, if not literally converted into a *den of thieves*, is absolutely turned into a sort of *bear-garden*.

When King Charles visited Dover, and upon going to church was conducted "with great pomp into *this* place of hearing," his Majesty, in a manner which indicated that true humility which dignifies instead of debasing the highest station, declined the use of a seat placed, as he emphatically observed,

—"above
The Majesty of Heaven!"

Notwithstanding this remark, the seats remain *in statu quo*, with all their velvet cushions, fringe, lace, and finery; and the mayor and jurats are still thought worthy of occupying them!

St. James's church anciently belonged to the castle; and the courts of Admiralty and Chancery for the Cinque Ports are occasionally holden in it; but there is nothing very remarkable in its appearance or architecture. The victualling office near the end of the town was formerly an hospital or *Maison Dieu*, founded in the reign of Henry III. by Hubert de Burgh, Earl of Kent; and there are vestiges of other religious houses in the vicinity of Dover, but especially the remains of St. Martin's Priory, now converted into a farm-house and offices, near the road leading to Folkstone. These ruins are still regarded by the common people, with much more awe and reverence than the mayor and corporation seem to entertain for the church before-men-

tioned; for they are fenced about by all the legendary terrors of superstition, and he is reckoned something *more* and perhaps *worse* than bold, among the inhabitants of the neighbourhood, who would adventure to set his foot within these sacred precincts, when the shades of evening have thrown their solemn vail over the mouldering ruins. Dismal noises then assail the ear, and frightful spectres of headless trunks and hobgoblins indescribable, have not only scared half the good women of the vicinage out of their senses, but terrified even "the thief and midnight walker," until the worthy Mr. Coleman who resides there (and is so incredulous as not to believe these marvellous relations, and denies having seen any apparitions unless in the shape of mice and rats, and owls and bats) is as secure on the site of Dover Priory, without the aid of bolts or bars, a watchman or a dog, as if he inhabited Dover Castle, where

" Batt'ries on batt'ries guard each fatal pass,
Threat'ning destruction!"

In the year 1803 very strong military works were constructed upon the heights westward of Dover, and extensive barracks for the reception of troops. The harbour and shore lying directly within the range of these batteries are completely defended, and commanded by them; and their appearance is very formidable and imposing. The lofty eminence upon which they are built not only flanks, but literally overshadows the town, on that side, and many of the houses in one of the principal streets appear to be in continual danger of the falling of the cliff.

which rises perpendicularly to an amazing height, close to their walls; and in some places, nods over their very roofs. Accidents have but rarely happened, for the substance of the hill being chalk, and the surface remaining undisturbed, so that but little water is admitted into it, the solid mass suffers scarcely any alteration from atmospherical changes, from heat, from moisture, or from frost. However the cliff sometimes gives way, and in the severe winter of 1814, a large portion of it overwhelmed one of the cottages at its foot, but happily without personal injury to the inhabitants. A pig sty which was buried beneath the fallen rock was discovered after *several months* with a sow in it, which, although destitute of any other food besides the litter on which she lay, was dug out alive, but in a singularly emaciated condition, and entirely devoid of bristles.

An ascent has been made from the town to the heights, by means of a spiral staircase of stone, carried up a large shaft which was bored through the solid rock, and is lighted by openings into the centre or area around which the steps are disposed. The entrance to this ingenious work is through an arched passage which leads from the level of the street, by a very gentle ascent, to the foot of the steps; and the latter being divided into two branches, afford facility of access to many persons at the same time, both in going up and coming down. The landing places, as well as the apertures for the admission of light being properly secured by iron rails and gratings, accidents can scarcely be imagined likely to occur: and both the design and execution of the work are deserving

of the highest praise. Such a union of elegance with convenience might have reflected credit even upon the genius of Sir Christopher Wren ; for it combines the gracefulness of that stupendous proof of architectural skill, the Monument of London, with the utmost simplicity and the most accommodating usefulness.

The streets of Dover are narrow ; many of the houses, if not most of them, ill-built ; and although the pier affords safe shelter to those vessels whose burthen allows of their coming into the harbour, the entrance is inconveniently narrow, and sometimes difficult ; and the avenues leading to it from the town extremely incommodious.

Some alterations and improvements have been made, and others are in contemplation, which in the course of a few years may be of considerable benefit, and advance the commercial interests of Dover ; but these works are slow in progress, and the spirit of enterprise, if not of industry, appears to have been damped by the disappointment of not so immediately perceiving the advantages of peace, as the inhabitants have formerly enjoyed when a cessation of hostilities enabled them to renew their accustomed intercourse with the opposite shore.

There are in the town, besides a handsome theatre, libraries, coffee houses, news-rooms, and other accommodations of a similar description. The markets, in addition to their supply of provisions from the neighbouring district, are commonly well stocked with poultry, game, fruit, fish, and vegetables from Calais and Bologne ; and it is extremely amusing to ob-

serve the effect of a constant intercourse with foreigners, both as it relates to their mode of dealing, habits of behaviour, and language. A fish-woman at Dover is quite a different being from a fish-woman at Billingsgate ; and the market gardeners of Covent Garden are almost as unlike those who are engaged in the like occupation on the verge of this coast, as a Parisian *belle* is to an English dairy maid. Let it not however, be inferred that any loss on the score of honesty, of morals, or of civility is likely to be the effect of an unrestrained communication with our opposite neighbours ; but let us endeavour to profit by their example, whether worthy of imitation or deserving to be discouraged and avoided.

Dover, for the reasons before stated, will probably never become fashionable as a bathing place ; but its intercourse with the Continent, and direct communication with the metropolis of Britain both by land and water, will always maintain its present rank and importance in the list of provincial towns.

CHAP. XIX.

Road from Dover to Folkstone.—Shakspeare's Cliff.

LEAVING St. Martin's Priory on the right-hand, and the heights of Dover on the left, the road westward passes through fields in tillage, which reflect credit upon their occupiers, by the neatness of their condition and apparent fertility. The farmers here have indeed one great advantage with regard to the dressing of their land, by the quantity of manure always to be procured at a moderate price. Fish is often used for this purpose, sprats being sold at Dover, at about 5*d.* per bushel; and including the expense of carriage not exceeding 7*d.* are found to answer extremely well, if *immediately spread, and followed by the plough.*

Southward of the road is that stupendous cliff, to which the name of Shakspeare has been attached, and his muse has given immortal fame. Here it is presumed that the great Bard wrote those inimitable lines which can never fatigue by repetition :

“ There is a cliff, whose high and bending head
Looks fearfully on the confined deep.
How dizzy 'tis to cast ones eyes so low!
The crows and choughs that wing the midway air,
Show scarce so gross as beetles! Half way down,
Hangs one that gathers samphire; dreadful trade!

Methinks he seems no bigger than his head !
The fishermen that walk upon the beach
Appear like mice ; and yon tall anchoring bark
Diminished to her cock ; her cock a buoy,
Almost too small for sight. The murm'ring surge,
That on th' unnumber'd idle pebbles chafes,
Can not be heard so high ! I'll look no more
Lest my brains turn, and the deficient sight
Topple down headlong ! ”

Critics and wittings there are, who have laid violent hands upon this passage, and, devoid of taste and feeling themselves, denounce it as a poetical rhapsody, and metaphor run mad : but whoever will take the pains to analyze the expressions of the Bard upon the spot, and to examine the several objects which he has collected to form this glowing picture, from the same point whence he viewed them, will be compelled to acknowledge the strictest truth and correctness in the description. Every landscape has its happy moments for observation ; and its features must necessarily vary with the changes of the seasons, and the distribution of light and shade. The glassy lake, and pine-clad mountain, equally lose their serene and majestic effect when examined from unfavourable points of view ; and vary in the brilliancy of the summer's sun, and under the louring influence of a gloomy atmosphere. They who presume to sit in judgment upon Shakspeare should first qualify themselves by studying nature as well as language : they will then discover that objects placed at a considerable height above the eye of an observer, invariably appear larger than when viewed at an equal distance below ; an effect not perhaps altogether

dependent upon the degree of light around the object, which is usually greater in the former case than in the latter, but probably in part occasioned by the difficulty of reconciling the mind to a new and unusual impression. The experiment may be fairly tried, by comparing the appearance of a person walking upon the edge of Shakspeare's cliff, when seen from the sea-beach, at its foot, with that of the same individual when viewed from the height above as he traverses the sands. Those who have accused the Poet of using too bold a figure when he compares the appearance of the fishermen to that of mice, and crows and choughs to beetles, will then readily correct the erroneous notions which they may have acquired by taking their stand at the foot of the cliff, and depending upon the effect produced in viewing the objects above them, instead of tracing the footsteps of the Bard, in order to estimate aright the value and the justice of his remarks.

The "dreadful trade," of gathering samphire still employs some of the poor people, and is probably exercised now in the same manner as in the days of Shakspeare, by descending upon a stick fastened to a rope, which is secured above by an iron crow, or a stake driven into the ground, at the top of the cliff; and when arrived at that part of the rock on which the samphire grows, gathering and collecting it into a basket, and ascending by means of the rope, or being drawn up by their companions upon a signal given for that purpose. The same method has been practised, for ages, in the Isle of Wight, by those who seek a scanty subsistence by collecting the eggs

of puffins, and other aquatic fowls lodged in the holes of the rocks: a process which makes the spectator shudder, but is much less frequently the source of accidents than many other, apparently less dangerous, habits and employments.

At the distance of between four and five miles from Dover, the road having gained the summit of the ridge of eminences, which, running along the sea-coast stretch out towards the north, is, at Folkstone turnpike-gate, particularized in Paterson's Survey as being 575 feet above the level of the sea, although only about a quarter of a mile from the edge of the cliff. From this spot the prospect is indescribably beautiful: the vale of Folkstone; the town occupying irregular ground in front; the sea; the hills above Bologne on the left; the heights of Shorn Cliff; and a bird's-eye view of the village of Sandgate, between the lofty eminences which are every where diversified with all imaginable variety of cultivation; the chalky cliffs eastward, rising with vast grandeur, and marking the line of coast; and the turnpike-road clinging to the hills, as it descends into Folkstone.

Let the stranger make the most of this view; for the moment he enters the town, the steep, narrow, ill-paved streets will so occupy his attention, that the most beautiful scenery of nature or art would scarcely be regarded.

CHAP. XVIII.

Folkstone.—The Chalybeate Spring.

FOLKSTONE is a place of great antiquity. Roman coins and bricks have been found in its immediate vicinity, in great abundance; and at the distance of about a mile and half northward, is a lofty eminence still called Castle-hill, on which is supposed to have stood a *pharos* or watch tower, built by the Emperor Theodosius to protect the coast against invaders, or perhaps rather to afford security to the Romans in landing.

Leland says, “ Folkestone ys a V miles frô Dover, and be al gese” (by all guess) “ stondeth very directly on Boleyn. Hard upon the shore yn a place cawled the Castel Yarde, be greate ruines of a solemne old nunnery; yn the walles wherofe yn divers places apere great and long Briton brikes; and on the right hond of the quier a grave trunce of squared stone. The castel yard hath been a place of great burial; yn so much as wher the se hath worn on the banke bones apere half stykyng owt:” and afterwards adds, “ Lord Clynton’s grantfather had there of a poore man a boate almost full of antiquities of pure gold and silver.”

The town is a corporation by prescription, governed by a mayor, twelve jurats, twenty-four common-council-men, a recorder, chamberlain, and town clerk. The mayor is also coroner by virtue of his office, and

together with the jurats, holds sessions of the peace, and of gaol-delivery, within the liberties of the port, which extend to the distance of two miles and an half along the coast, and about a quarter of a mile in the opposite direction from south to north. Folkstone is a limb or member of Dover, as one of the Cinque Ports, and participates in their high privileges. The corporation seal has the figure of St. Eanswith, with a coronet on her head, and holding a pastoral staff in her right hand, and in her left, two fish on a half hoop. St. Eanswith is the tutelar saint of the place, and divides with St. Rumbald the homage and veneration of the fishermen. She is by tradition said to have been educated in a religious house, which formerly occupied the site of the present church, and the ground contiguous on the north and east sides of that building; and having been, on account of her extraordinary piety (for she wrought many miracles, and caused water to be conveyed by means of an aqueduct from one of the neighbouring springs into the convent) more than her exalted rank, although the daughter of one of the kings of Kent, elevated to the dignity of prioress of this convent, she passed the whole of her life on the spot, and was at length buried here.

The parish church which had been originally dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, was by a second consecration (no uncommon circumstance in those days) dedicated to St. Eanswith also, and her remains are believed to have continued incorruptible during many centuries, at the expiration of which, either by accident or design they were disclosed to view, and

afforded to her devotees a copious supply of holy and imperishable relics.

The present edifice stands near the verge of the cliff, on the west side of the town. It is a plain unornamented structure, with a low roof, tiled, and a square tower at the west end. The building is irregular and low, but contains many monumental tablets, chiefly for the inhabitants, and incumbents of the living. In the pavement is also a memorial of Charles Erskine, eighth Earl of Kelly, Viscount Fenton, and premier Viscount of Scotland : and under an arch in the north wall, is an ancient tomb with the effigy of a person, supposed from the crest (a talbot) which is placed at the feet, to have been one of the family of Fiennes, Constable of Dover Castle, and Warden of the Cinque Ports.

William Langhorne, A. M. minister of Folkstone, who died in 1772, has the following tribute of affection from the pen of his brother Dr. John Langhorne.

“ Of Langhorne’s life be this memorial giv’n,
Whose race was virtue, and whose goal was heav’n.
Not through the selfish, drear, unfriendly road,
Which ancient moralists and sophists trod,
But in an active sphere of Christian love
He mov’d himself, and will’d mankind to move :
Enthusiast’s confidence, or sceptic’s fear,
Affected not his equable career :
With evangelic eloquence he warn’d,
With reason won us, and with meekness charm’d ;
Show’d in his life, his converse, and his prayer,
The friend’s attachment, and the pastor’s care.
Oft would he in the mines of ancient lore
Historic truth and moral worth explore ;

Yet was his aim to dissipate the night
 Of pagan doubt, by revelation's light;
 The Christian's steady plan to recommend;
 Just in its source, and happy in its end.
 Thus to his flock whom here he left behind,
 Thus to his neighbours,—who were all mankind,
 He gave example to pursue with zeal
 His Saviour's steps to everlasting weal,
 And in the moment of expiring breath
 To gain a rest of endless joy, in death."

Within the communion rails, where this excellent
 divine lies buried:

" In life belov'd ; in death for ever dear,
 O Friend ! O Brother ! take this parting tear :
 If life has left me aught that asks a sigh,
 'Tis but like thee to live, like thee to die !

In how different a style of composition are the
 following lines on John Cloke, one of a numerous
 family (it had been almost said of *punsters*) who are
 also interred here.

" John Cloke died in 1675.

" John is buried here wrapt up in his *cloke*
 It's now become his *night-gown* as it is seene,
 It is the self same culler, blew and greene.
 Hee was a husbandman, his fathers' land to till,
 Himself hee left not out, but did their minds fulfill ! "

On the tomb of John Pragnell Esq. four times
 mayor of Folkstone, and sixteen years lieutenant of
 Sandgate Castle, who died in 1676.

" Underneath this stone intomb'd doth lie
 The representative of Majestie.

Death is impartial ; a bold serjeant he,
 T' arrest a portsman in his mayoraltie,
 A magistrate upright and truly just,
 Once here chiefe ruler, alas now turn'd to dust !
 But here's his glory. It is but a remove
 From this frail earth, to be enthron'd above."

In the south aisle is a tablet in memory of Captain John Jordan, six times mayor of Folkstone, and forty years lieutenant of Sandgate Castle. There is also an elegant marble monument, with the figures of John and Henry Herdson, who are stated to have been twin brothers. For the former is an acrostical inscription ; and he lies buried at Hawkinge.

The family of Harvey (of which a branch is still remaining in the parish) are also interred here ; and the following inscription designates the mother of Dr. William Harvey, the celebrated physician who discovered the circulation of the blood.

On a brass plate in the middle aisle :

" A. D. 1605, November 8th. dyed in the 50th. yeare of her age, *Joan*, wife of Thomas Harvey, mother of 7 sones and 2 daughters. A godly harmles woman : a chast loveing wife : a charitable quiet neighbour : a co'fortable friendly matron : a prudent, diligent huswyfe : a careful, te'derharted mother : deer to her husband : revered of her neighbours : elected of God : whose soule rests in heaven ; her body in this grave ; to her a happy advantage ; to hers an unhappy loss."

Dr. William Harvey was a native of Folkstone, and a considerable benefactor to the poor, to whom he bequeathed 200*l.* with which his surviving brother, Sir Eliab Harvey, founded a school for the education, of twenty boys, and endowed it with a farm (called

Combe in the parish of Lymne) out of the products of which the master of the school receives his salary, and the remainder is laid out in the purchase and reparation of boats, nets, &c. for the benefit of poor fishermen belonging to the town, at the discretion of trustees. It is melancholy and horrible to relate, that Harvey, after having immortalized his name by the most important discovery which had ever graced the science of medicine, and a long life passed in acts of benevolence, closed his mortal career by suicide. Having attained the age of ninety years, the loss of his sight overwhelmed his decaying faculties : he sank into despair, and destroyed himself by poison.

Folkstone Church was first built by Nigel de Muneville, Lord of the Town, about the year 1137 ; but having undergone various alterations, and at length become dilapidated, in the month of December, 1705, the west end was blown down by a violent tempest. It was afterwards rebuilt, but shortened ; and is at present insufficient for the use of the inhabitants, whose numbers have considerably increased during the last century.

It is remarked that, notwithstanding this circumstance, and the various and zealous efforts made by different sectaries at different times, such is the peculiar temper of the people of Folkstone, that they have not within their liberties a single chapel or meeting house, belonging to any other religious persuasion, besides that of the established church ; and that the missionaries and itinerant preachers, who have not been sparing of their lungs or their labours, have been hitherto unable to make any proselytes among

them. It is nevertheless proper to observe that this indifference does not proceed from disregard for religion (for they are, generally speaking, very regular in their attendance upon the service of the church) nor has ever been accompanied with any insult, or indecorous behaviour towards those who have attempted their *conversion*, besides that unequivocal mode of showing their dislike to innovation, which is manifested by shutting their ears against these self-appointed modern apostles. No distractions therefore prevail at Folkstone upon religious subjects; no disputations engender animosities, or inflame the prejudices of the weak or the zealous: the inhabitants are even *proverbially friendly*; and the less polished perhaps the more sincere. It will not, it is hoped, be deemed offensive to speak of them in the language of the poet,

“ Far from the madding crowd's ignoble strife
Their sober wishes never learn to stray;
Along the cool sequester'd vale of life,
They keep the noiseless tenor of their way.”

Folkstone gives the title of Viscount to the eldest son of the Earl of Radnor, who is the possessor of the manor, and of a considerable estate here. Formerly a park and mansion house were attached to this honour; but the site of them is now unknown. In the early periods of history the town is said to have been much more considerable than at present. It was bestowed upon the see of Canterbury by King Athelstan. A castle is said to have been built here

long before that period (by a son of King Ethelbert, in the sixth century) which was undermined and sunk by the encroachment of the sea. Such also has been the fate of several churches; and Leland has expressly particularized *two* of them, which he describes to have been in a ruinous condition in his own time. In 1378, the united forces of the French and Scots attacked and set fire to the town; and in the reign of Elizabeth, it contained only 120 houses, the residence chiefly of fishermen, who had among them twenty-five vessels. Since that period, however, the number of houses has been increased to more than 500, and the inhabitants to more than 4000. The streets, although narrow and irregular, have been considerably improved of late years, and trade has greatly increased. The support of the inhabitants depends principally upon the success of the fishery, which is carried on with great activity: the London markets, as well as those of Canterbury, and many other places at a great distance, receiving a constant supply, especially of whittings, herrings, skate, and mackerel, from this port. The busy scene which presents itself upon the landing of the boats, and the eagerness which is manifested both by buyers and sellers, as well as the expedition with which their cargoes are disposed of, however large, can not but be highly interesting, even to those who are mere spectators of this daily bustle, and have no other concern in the business but in the character of travellers, or visitors of the coast. The fish sent to London are conveyed in light waggons, which stand ready to receive them

as soon as they are brought on shore; and perform the journey with a degree of celerity wholly unknown until the present age.

The harbour of Folkestone is defended by a small fort, with a furnace for heating red-hot balls, on the south-eastern point of the eminence on which the church stands, and near the site of the ancient monastery. There are also Martello towers on the verge of the coast eastward, which contribute to its security.

In 1808 the foundation of a spacious pier was laid by Thomas Baker, Esq. Mayor, a gentleman who has most honourably and deservedly been called no less than twelve times to preside in the civic chair. This work, constructed of very solid materials, stones of many tons in weight, and of a size even prodigious, has been carried out to the extent of 1500 feet; and when completed will form an agreeable promenade, as well as afford convenient shelter for the vessels moored within it; but notwithstanding the strength of the masonry, experience has already convinced the projectors of this laudable undertaking that it is incapable of resisting the tremendous violence of south-western gales, when the surf is dashed with such impetuosity against it, that portions of the wall have been forced from their connexion, and breaches made in a work which had the appearance of being calculated for perpetual duration. The advantage and importance of affording encouragement to such designs is so evident, that hopes are still entertained of the completion of the plan. The nursery which the fisheries afford for seamen, is a political benefit

of such magnitude that, independent of their commercial effects, it deserves the most attentive regard of Government: and the men of Folkstone have even superior claims, for many of the most skilful pilots in his Majesty's service have been supplied from this little port, and whenever the welfare of the country has called for their services, none have ever been found more ready, and few if any more competent to assist in navigating her fleets through the most dangerous and difficult channels. Inured from early infancy to the water, and in constant habits of facing the tempest and the storm, there is no part of the coast which has produced more hardy, and more able seamen; and every friend of industrious activity and intrepid zeal must desire to see due encouragement held out to such valuable members of the community.

So general is the connexion of the inhabitants of Folkstone with the water, that there are comparatively few among them who in the herring, whiting, and mackerel seasons do not relinquish the employment in which they are occupied during the rest of the year, to resort on board their little fleet, and assist their maritime brethren.

A custom formerly prevailed here among the fishermen, of selecting out of every boat, upon its return from fishing, eight of the largest and best whittings, and selling them apart from the rest, in order to raise a fund for the celebration of a feast or rejoicing upon Christmas eve. This was called a Rumbald, and although the practice has been long discontinued, many of the inhabitants still assemble for the cele-

bration of what is termed Rumbald-night ; which is conjectured to have originated in the offering formerly made to the saint who was considered as the especial patron of fishermen, and their guardian from the perils of the sea.

That admirable invention, the temporary rudder, is said to have been first used by Captain Ricketts in steering one of the Folkstone boats ; but without detracting from the merit or ingenuity of the discovery, it is proper to notice that the Grafton man of war, at the termination of the war in 1763, was steered to England by means of a machine promptly and successfully substituted instead of her rudder, which had been lost in a violent storm off Louisburgh. Another invention of Captain Ricketts may, however, be appropriately mentioned, which in point of utility stands unrivalled ; and especially as from its having been first used on board the Clyde frigate off this port, it has acquired the appellation of the Folkstone machine. By means of this excellent contrivance, the operation of working the great chain-pumps of a ship was effected without the slightest assistance from any person on board ; and its application to common use being extremely simple, it may be justly considered a most valuable nautical improvement.

The ascent to the summit of the cliff on which the church stands is by a circuitous road for carriages ; and by several flights of stone steps, which form a more immediate communication between the lower parts of the town near the harbour, and those which occupy the height westward, called the Bayle.

The cliff appears to consist of sand-stone, and fine earth. Portions of it have in many places fallen down upon the beach, and lie scattered irregularly in masses at the foot of the precipice. Such accidents are very frequent, and in the Isle of Wight are termed *land slips*; the ground sinking from its original situation, and descending along an inclined plane towards the beach. The basis of these hills is a slippery kind of clay or marl, which thus becomes exposed to view, and hardens gradually by the free access of air, until it acquires the consistency and firmness of solid stone: its pale slate-blue colour being exchanged for a darker hue, and portions of it worn smooth by attrition, forming the rocks and black pebbles along the whole line of the coast. The cliffs therefore are not undermined by the water, which even in the highest tides scarcely ever reaches their foot, but resting upon this bed of marl (which the natives call *stipe*) the superincumbent weight of the hills inland presses them forward until they slide from their connexion with the rest of the land behind, in the same manner as a ship is launched, and are thus precipitated towards the beach. The stratum of clay is, in some places, visible at low water to a considerable breadth, and particularly where the cliff, being harder and more solid, imbibes less humidity, and is therefore more secure from the effects of frost; or where the beach is more bare of shingle and pebbles than is commonly the case in the vicinity of Folkstone.

On some of the masses which have been detached by the action of the waves, or otherwise loosened

and broken off, the impressions made on their surface by the roots and branches of trees, which were once imbedded in them, continue permanently after they have acquired the hardness of stone; and a friable substance is seen adherent to the surface of the grooves formed in them, which evidently proves their vegetable origin, and is entirely different from the stone with which it is united. The naturalist, as well as the fossilist and the mineralogist, may therefore find a rational source of amusement here, both in the examination of the strata upon the coast, and in its neighbouring hills, in which pyrites, fuller's earth, sulphur, and many other unusual productions, are to be found. Upon the hills they will also meet with a curious phenomenon, in the several ledges and horizontal lines along the surface of these eminences, towards the coast, which have been evidently occasioned by the motion and fluctuation of the waves of the sea; although they are now a prodigious height above its shore. Let it be observed, too, that these are sand hills, and not composed of chalk, which last have been erroneously asserted to be the only eminences thus marked or divided into terraces.

Folkstone has been long known to valetudinarians as affording the conveniencies of bathing, combined with salubrious air, tranquillity, and cheerful scenery in the neighbouring district. A ledge of rocks extends to a great distance into the Channel both on the east and west of the town, and gives additional security (if any were wanting) to the protection afforded by the batteries and towers on the heights, so that in time of war, it possesses some advantages

over a more exposed coast ; and in time of peace the bold and romantic scenery on the land side, the pleasant and fertile country of which it is the border, its charming marine prospects, and unclouded atmosphere, its being sheltered from the piercing cold of the north and north east winds, and the facilities which it affords of enjoying the sea breeze upon the bosom of the deep, are strong recommendations in the view of many who resort to the coast in search of health. By persons afflicted with scrophulous disorders, a residence here has been found essentially beneficial, and there are both hot and cold baths and machines, under proper directors, and with suitable attendants, so that it is probable that Folkstone may in turn, and at a period not very distant, rise into celebrity and estimation, as well as many other towns and villages upon the southern coast, possessed of fewer advantages and less convenient accommodations.

In one respect this place is at present unrivalled : there being within a mile of the sea side

A CHALYBEATE SPRING,

possessed of a degree of strength scarcely exceeded by any in the island ; and capable, if judiciously combined with the use of salt water, of considerably increasing the good effects of the latter in some of the disorders for which it is prescribed by physicians. This spring rises in the little hamlet of Foord, north of Folkstone, but out of the jurisdiction and liberty of the Port, at the very spot where

the range of chalk hills which are the boundaries of the coast appears to be broken, and a succession of sand hills are interposed between the sea-side, and that high ridge of land which forms a sort of natural barrier to the southern parts of Kent, and extends from near Dover to the course of the Rother on the western side of the county.

The iron is held in solution by carbonic acid, and when the water has been allowed to remain at rest for a short time, it deposits a very copious crust or sediment. A stone trough or basin, without any kind of enclosure or covering, receives the water, and is in like manner tinged and encrusted with it. It is used by the inhabitants of the neighbourhood for a variety of domestic purposes, as well as resorted to by the sick. An old woman in the vicinity tells the inquirer that she boils her cabbages in it because it turns them green, and that her tea is stronger when made with water from the spring, than with softer water. It lathers with soap, and is occasionally used in washing linen, in spite of its ferruginous contents. The spring was never known to be frozen; and, notwithstanding its medicinal properties, has been almost entirely neglected until lately. Such an accidental circumstance as that which first brought Tunbridge Wells into repute is only wanting to give celebrity to the chalybeate water at Foord, and make the fortune of Mr. Holmes, the very civil, attentive, and intelligent master of the Red Cow near the spot.

A rapid stream, which turns several mills, and throws up a strong column of water in the nature of a fountain, within the town of Folkstone, rises about

a mile northward of Foord, and is conducted from its source in a spot called the Cherry Orchard, by means of a subterranean aqueduct, to the Bayle or precincts of the nunnery near Folkstone church, where it finds its level and ascends into a pool.

Neither this nor any other of the numerous streams or springs with which these hills abound, appear to partake of the qualities of the spring above described, although that which arises in the Cherry Orchard has amazingly increased the fame of St. Eanswith, who to this very day is believed by the country people to have wrought a miracle by enticing the water *to run up hill*.

An agreeable walk through the valley, which in the summer months is truly delightful, leads to the eminence called Castle Hill before mentioned, and affords an opportunity of examining more minutely the lines of circumvallation with which its summit is crowned. These works, which in shape approach nearer to an oblong square than an oval, enclose about two acres of ground. They have probably undergone some alterations under the hands of different possessors; were originally Roman; afterwards holden by the Britons, and lastly by the Saxons or perhaps Danes. A single vallum guards the south-east side, which is very steep, but the east, north, and west, are enclosed with two deep trenches. A third *has been described*, but no traces of it can be perceived, and that erroneous account seems to have been carelessly copied by one writer from another, without taking the trouble to look at the spot; for it is very evident that no material alteration has been

made in the appearance of the ground for many centuries, and that the original mistake must have arisen from not properly distinguishing the interval between the ridges of earth thrown out of the ditches, and the lines themselves.

No vestige of walls or buildings of any kind can be discovered, nor is there even a loose stone about the neighbouring fields; and Castle Hill has more the appearance of one of the summer camps of the Romans than a more permanent station. To such authorities as those of Camden and Stukeley, minor antiquaries must, however, bow with reverential submission.

There are few spots more romantic than the cherry-orchard, near the foot of this hill. It occupies an amphitheatrical recess in the bosom of a lofty eminence, covered with a short mossy turf, marked regularly with horizontal lines or belts. A cottage, which serves also as a house of entertainment for the parties which frequently resort hither from Folkstone and the neighbouring villages, enlivens the solitude which, in the wildness of its accompaniments, and the scenery around, bears a strong resemblance to some of those pictures with which our minds are early impressed by the perusal of Robinson Crusoe. Indeed there can scarcely be conceived more rural simplicity, cheered by a more pleasing prospect, than that which here invites the visitors of the coast.

It is also the occasional scene of rustic merriment, and holiday diversion; and the young and gay are frequently seen "tripping it on the light fantastic

toe," to the music of a violin, or tabor and pipe, whilst the grave and more sedate looker on is enjoying the fumes of tobacco, the chit-chat of his neighbours, and the village news.

There may be some who will perhaps sneer at the description, and even despise the group; but the friend of social life will smile with complacency, rather than contempt. He will desire the increase, rather than discourage the opportunities of mirthful association and cheerful hilarity, as the means of promoting the happiness and gratification of those classes of his fellow-subjects who are justly entitled to such relaxation from their labours in our fields and our manufactories, and for those heroic exertions of bravery and prowess, which have contributed to establish that domestic security in which all ranks of society happily participate.

" O you who bathe in courtlye blysse,
Or toyle in fortune's giddy spheare;
Do not too rashlye deeme amysse
Of him that bydes contented here.
Forgive him, if at eve or dawne,
Devoid of worldlye cark, he straye,
Or all beside some flowerye lawne
He waste his inoffensive daye!
So may he pardonn fraude and strife,
If such in courtlye haunt he see,
For faults there been in busye lyfe
From whyche these peaceful glennes are free!"

CHAP. XIX.

*Neighbourhood of Folkstone.—Paddlesworth.—
Alkham.—Denton.—Broome.*

AN excursion from Folkstone into the interior of the county northward, will introduce the traveller to much interesting scenery. If he has a taste for agriculture, he will not fail to admire the appearance of the land, which in various parts of this district is in a state of the highest cultivation; if for unrestrained nature, in her wildest attire, Barham Downs will have their attractions. If the mighty names of departed heroes increase the interest, or the venerableness of the places in which they were once conversant, abundant opportunities will be afforded of recounting their deeds of valour, their stratagems and achievements on the theatre of their conflicts, and the ground once stained with their blood.

The difficulty of climbing up the lofty ridge of hills which rises abruptly as a boundary of the vale of Folkstone, will be amply compensated by the extensive prospect which it commands, both of sea and land. The bird's-eye view of the principal features of the landscape before mentioned on the approach to Folkstone, together with extensive openings into more distant parts of the country, and a vast variety "of grove, of lawn, of mead," of cul-

tivated fields and swelling downs, the rich products of husbandry, corn, and cattle, snug farm-houses and well-strawed homesteads, the neat cottage, "the sweet retreat of ease and peace," its spiral smoke, rendered more picturesque by the dark foliage of the neighbouring wood; the village church and "the vicar's snug dwelling;" towns, rivers, mills; might supply even to an indifferent painter a sufficiency of materials for a complete picture, and can not be viewed by any eye without admiration.

Descending the northern side of the hill, the traveller soon arrives at the little village of

PADDLESWORTH,

with its diminutive chapel of ease to Lyminge, a valuable rectory and vicarage, exempt from archidiaconal jurisdiction. The only sculptured ornaments of this building are two pillars about four feet in height, forming perhaps the narrowest entrance into a place of Divine worship in the kingdom.

Deep and narrow roads, indicative of great antiquity, intersect this part of the county. On an eminence on the right, Cassivelaunus was encamped opposite to Cæsar's forces, which occupied Iffin wood.

Chartham and Swerdling Downs in the vicinity are covered with tumuli; and one remarkably large barrow is distinguished by the appellation of Juliberies' Grave, a corruption of Quintus Laberius Durus, the name of a Tribune, who with many other officers of note was slain in the engagement between

the Roman forces and Cassivelaunus. The former were, however, ultimately victorious; and the Britons suffered a signal defeat.

The Roman military way from Dover to Ashford may be traced in various parts of its course; and a great variety of picturesque and interesting scenery will gratify the traveller who deviates from the usual track, and explores the country in the neighbourhood of

ALKHAM;

a little village situated in the deepest recess of a confined valley. Its ancient church appears to have been once much more spacious than at present; the western part of the north aisle having been demolished. The neat rectory-house, and rural appearance of the surrounding objects form a singular and pleasing landscape.

Ascending the steep hill north-east of Alkham, and passing some large open fields, arrive at another little village called Lydden, situated on the turnpike-road from Dover to London, and having the sixty-sixth mile-stone standing about the middle of it.

DENTON,

in this neighbourhood, was in ancient times the seat of the family of Earde or Yerde, and continued in their possession from the reign of King John until the days of Henry VII.

It was rebuilt as at present in 1574, and in 1679 came into the hands of the Whorwoods. In 1766 the poet Gray here visited the Reverend William Robinson, brother of the celebrated and benevolent Mrs. Montague, and father of Mrs. Bridges, whose husband, S. E. Bridges, Esq. had purchased the house and estate of Lady Markham, the dowager of Sir James Markham, Bart. and sister of Lord Clive.

A beautiful description of the general appearance of the country, interspersed with some criticisms, and a little sarcasm, contained in a letter written by Gray upon the spot, and addressed to his friend Mason, was afterwards published.

In the church are memorials of the family of Pettit, of Dandelion, near Margate; and in the church-yard is the burial place of the Whorwoods.

At Denne-Hill is the termination of Barham Downs; and the appearance of numerous barrows, and the remains of an ancient camp, will afford to the virtuoso a rich harvest of antiquities; urns, bones, umbos of shields, *fibulæ*, and coins of Gallienus Carausius, Allectus, Constantine, &c.

King John was encamped on Barham-Downs, in the Barons' wars; and Simon de Montfort, the potent and turbulent Earl of Leicester, in the time of Henry III. In modern days these downs have also been the scene of less destructive conflicts; large bodies of troops having been frequently exercised, reviewed, and encamped here; and an immense concourse of spectators is usually assembled upon such occasions, as well as at the season when the races are annually held.

BROOME,

the seat of Sir Henry Oxenden, Bart. to whom it was bequeathed in 1750 by Sir Basil Dixwell, was probably built in the reign of Charles I. It is a commodious family mansion, standing in a spacious park, which possesses the advantage of such fine trees and beautiful undulations of ground, that, at a moderate expense, the hand of taste might render it a truly delightful residence. At present the surrounding fields, in a high state of cultivation, and the belt of firs by which they are enclosed, form its principal ornaments.

Returning by the direct road from Canterbury to Folkstone, re-enter the latter at the brow of the hill, which forms the eastern bank of the little river *Eanswith*; and after again enjoying the prospect of the Channel, the shipping, and the hills on the French shore, pursue our journey along the coast.

The road leading from Folkstone to Sandgate runs parallel with the sea-shore, at the distance of about half a mile inland. The fields, which extend in a perfect level from the verge of the cliff to the road, and beyond it to the foot of the hills northward, are chiefly in tillage. The soil is light and sandy, and particularly adapted to the production of peas and turnips, the latter being drilled as well as the former. The ploughing is performed with a very light wheel-plough drawn by two horses abreast, and the harrow is passed over the land in the same manner. The crops here are seldom known to fail,

either in wet seasons or dry, notwithstanding the open and complete exposure of the fields, which are totally devoid of shelter.

The verge of the cliff affords a delightful walk, overlooking the sea on the left, and embracing a fine prospect of the ancient works called Castle-Hill in the opposite direction, and of the modern barracks on Shorn-Cliff in front; until at the distance of a mile and a half westward of Folkstone, arriving at the brow of the hill, where a Martello tower has been erected for the defence of Sandgate, there opens in full view the whole line of coast, forming a gentle curve, which terminates with the light-house at Dungeness: the shore being defended by a range of towers like giant centinels along the very margin of the water.

CHAP. XX.

The Martello Towers.

THIS description of fortification, of which the original idea may perhaps have been borrowed from the forts which King Henry VIII. caused to be erected, was deemed of so much importance in the late war, that almost incalculable, and certainly enormous sums of money, were expended upon the construction of towers along the whole line of the coast.

They are, with very few exceptions, built upon one uniform plan, and of similar height and dimensions. An examination of the interior of one of them affords, therefore, a complete idea of the rest, and supplies all that curiosity can desire to know of their arrangement. The height is usually about thirty feet, the diameter at the top twenty-two feet within the parapet, with a projecting ledge or step about a foot high all round; the parapet, including that step, being about six feet high. The roof is vaulted and bomb-proof. In the centre of the platform, on the summit, is a twenty-four pounder mounted on a traversing carriage, and of course capable of being pointed in any direction which may be required; and elevated so as to rake and command the coast. The building is of brick-work,

from five to eight feet in thickness; circular, gradually tapering from the foundation to the top; and having in the centre a very large pillar, from which springs an arch abutted by the outer walls. The foundation appears to be laid at a great depth, and is likewise vaulted, with the convexity downward; and in this part is a reservoir of water.

In situations where the towers have been built upon a low beach close to the sea, a smaller portion of the cone is beneath the surface of the ground. Where they have been erected upon a hill, and circumstances would permit, or the nature of the soil rendered it preferable, a pit has been dug in the rock, and the tower erected in the centre of it; the entrance being by means of a drawbridge across the ditch thus made to enclose the building. The door, which is narrow, and composed of thick plates of copper, being at the end of the bridge, derives additional security from a portion of the latter, which, when drawn up by the chains affixed to it, forms a sort of portcullis, and completely barricades the approach. There are three stories: in the lower one are deposited the ammunition and stores; the central division contains a separate apartment for an officer, partitioned off from the common barrack-room, which contains beds for twenty or thirty soldiers; and the upper story is the platform before-mentioned, the ascent to it being by a stone staircase, and the whole rendered secure from the effects of fire within, as well as hostilities without.

Those towers which are not enclosed by a fosse, have a strong ladder of steps, so narrow as to allow

of but one person ascending at a time, fitted to the door-way, and made to draw up within the building; and the light is admitted through two small windows placed on that side of the tower which is least exposed to the probable attack of an enemy.

In this particular, the Martello towers seem capable of great improvement, which might be effected without diminishing their security. Light and air are so essential to cleanliness and health, that the strongest motive, necessity alone, can justify an abridgment of those comforts. If instead of small square windows there had been high and narrow openings in an oblique direction through the walls, not only light and air, but the rays of the sun, might have been admitted, without in the least degree exposing those who were within to inconvenience or danger, or impairing the strength of the building. Constructed as they are at present, the gloom of twilight renders the apartments very uncomfortable, and adds very unnecessarily to the dreariness of such an habitation.

There are about ten towers upon this line of coast with two guns instead of one upon the platform, a twenty-four pounder, and a five and half inch howitzer. The building is always placed as near as possible to the water, unless some commanding eminence within the range of the guns, presents a more commodious situation; and there are very few of these fortresses exposed to any but very distant or random shot from ships, or even gun-boats, if such should presume to approach.

Their necessity has been disputed, their utility de-

nied, and the immense expense of their construction abundantly censured, both in and out of parliament. Whether they have in fact contributed in any degree to make the coast more secure from an enemy, happily for the country, has never been put to the proof. May they long remain, as at present, a bloodless trophy, the monuments of vigilance and zeal on the part of government, and useless ornaments of the coast, rather than necessary guardians of its security!

The range of Martello towers commences at Copp Point, between Dover and Folkstone; and they are built within point blank shot of each other, along the whole southern line of the Kentish coast.

CHAP. XXI.

Sandgate.—Shorn Cliff.—Saltwood Castle.

DESCENDING a steep hill into Sandgate, the castle built there by Henry VIII. (and part of it recently converted into a Martello tower, of larger size than usual, and built with stone instead of brick) is the first object which presents itself. It stands on the beach, and so near the water's edge that its walls are frequently washed by the surf. Whether this building was originally more extensive than at present, may be doubted; for there are no vestiges of its ancient walls to be traced: but unless it has been considerably reduced in size since Queen Elizabeth was lodged and entertained in it, when her Majesty made a progress hither in 1588, fewer attendants could have been admitted in her train than usually follow the steps of royalty.

A more ancient castle had undoubtedly been situated here (but whether exactly on the same spot is now unknown) in the time of Richard II. who directed the keeper of the Castle of Sandgate, to admit Henry of Lancaster, Duke of Hereford (afterwards King Henry IV.) with his family, horses, &c. to remain there for certain days. In that reign lunettes of stone, with port-holes and batteries, were added to the castle by command of the King. There is also said to have been a round tower in the middle,

voured by the genial influence of the sun ; and in the scorching heats of summer is refreshed by the sea breezes.

Sandgate is seventy-four miles from London by way of Canterbury and Folkstone, and about three miles nearer through Ashford. A constant intercourse between Dover, Brighton, and Portsmouth, gives a considerable degree of animation to the road through this village, by the number of persons induced by business, or attracted by curiosity, to travel coastwise. It also affords to the occasional visitor an opportunity, at comparatively a trivial expense, of seeing whatever is worthy of notice in this most interesting part of the country, without at any point of the road exceeding the distance of a moderate day's journey from the metropolis.

The Earl of Darnley has erected on a rising ground on the north side of Sandgate, a charming marine villa, which, when the plantations with which the spot is tastefully adorned shall have attained sufficient height to screen it from the wind, will be a truly delightful residence. Sir John Shaw has also a commodious house at the entrance of the village from Hythe, which has an uninterrupted view of the sea, and has a garden contiguous to it, formed upon the sands of the shore.

The range of eminences northward, which border Sandgate, are rendered picturesque by Martello towers standing upon the verge of it ; and the view which they command of the sea, and the coast of France, amply compensate for the fatigue and difficulty of the ascent. They also overlook a beautiful,

irregular valley on the north-west, with the mansion of Beachborough and its fine plantations.

SHORN-CLIFF,

by which appellation the western part of this range of hills is called, was occupied, during the war, by numerous regiments of infantry successively stationed in the barracks there; and few situations could have been found more airy and cheerful, and few buildings constructed more incommodious and uncomfortable. These were called *temporary* barracks by way of apology, it is presumed, for having been built of wood instead of stone. Why they were so built, and in a place where stone might have been obtained for the trouble of digging, or even without digging at all, surely none but those by whose order they were erected could satisfactorily explain. At the distance of half a mile from these notable barracks, the public were however presented with another specimen of architectural elegance, in a building of a similar nature for the use of the cavalry and artillery. These are built of stone—and of course are not to be considered as *temporary* barracks; but they are so incommodious that every one who has been doomed to inhabit them will wish that they were.

To complete the climax of absurdity, an hospital for sick soldiers has been built, and substantially too, with solid walls of masonry, and handsome sash windows, at a distance from these permanent, but in the immediate vicinity of those which are called temporary and intended for removal, and in a situation so diffi-

cult of approach as to be almost inaccessible. Sheltered it certainly is, by the nature of the ground on which the building stands ; but so it might have been by the erection of a fence, which would at the same time have properly enclosed it, if it had been placed much nearer to the establishment to which it was designed as an appendage, and where it might have been approached with ease.

If caution be ever derived from the effect of experience, surely the system of barrack-building will in time be improved !

In passing along the road from Sandgate towards Folkstone, it will not escape the traveller's notice, that although so near to the sea, and on a level with the water, many fine springs are seen gushing out from the bank close to the pathway, which after crossing the road soon lose themselves amongst the sands.

About one mile eastward of Hythe is the commencement of that great work of defence,

THE MILITARY CANAL,

sixty feet wide and of great depth. It is cut in a zigzag course, with embrasures at every angle of the bank, for heavy canon, and forms a line between Romney-marsh, and the interior of Kent. In some places, as at its beginning, it approaches the foot of the high lands on its northern side, and in others is, by the variation of the ground, at a considerable distance from it. It is about *twenty* miles in length, and the angles are not more than a quarter of a mile distant from each other ; a signal house, or

station for artillerymen who have the charge of the guns, or rather of the embankments (for few guns are actually mounted) being built at intervals of about a mile and quarter, and wherever there is a bridge over the canal—from this spot to the vicinity of Appledore, where it terminates.

Besides its advantage as a security in case of invasion, it undoubtedly affords an interesting object in perspective, when viewed from a large battery which occupies a ledge of the hill close to its eastern extremity, and together with the Martello towers and Redoubts, which as well as the barracks on Saltwood Heights, above the town of Hythe, are visible from the same spot, has an imposing effect.

It was a part of the original plan, that in the addition to the battery at the head of the canal, and the Martello towers upon Shorn-Cliff, there should be a drawbridge to intercept the road from Folkstone to Sandgate, which would at pleasure have cut off the communication between the eastern and western parts of the shore, and presented a formidable obstacle to an enemy, if a landing had been effected.

Proceeding on our journey westward, having entered this strait, with the sea and the military canal on the left hand, the town of Folkstone in front, clinging to the side of a lofty eminence; and its church most picturesquely embosomed in trees, and backed by Saltwood-Heights, the range of hills which has hitherto bordered the road from Sandgate suddenly recedes, as if on purpose to display the magnificent and venerable ruins of

SALTWOOD-CASTLE,

standing on a rising ground in a recess between Shorn Cliff and Saltwood-Heights ; and at the distance of about half a mile from the road.

This fortress, which is conjectured to have derived its name from a wood, which formerly covered a great extent of the coast, has been attributed by some originally to the Romans, but perhaps without sufficient grounds. Others have supposed that it was built in the fifth century, by Escus or Eske, King of Kent and son of Hengist. In Domesday Book it is called Salteode. It was once held by Hugh de Montfort, who is said to have repaired it ; but there is little certainty respecting its early history, until it came into the possession of the Lord Rayleigh, who rebuilt this edifice in a similar style of architecture, to that of Rayleigh-Castle in Essex, which was another possession of that nobleman, who was Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, and standard bearer to the King ; but being disgraced, his lands were seized by the crown.

In the reign of King John, Saltwood-Castle was by that monarch bestowed upon the see of Canterbury, and became the residence of the Archbishop, one of whose successors here entertained the unfortunate King Edward II. It was enlarged and improved by Archbishop Courtenay, in the time of Richard II. and the arms of that prelate (three bezants with a label of three points) are still remaining on one side of the gateway, and also impaled with those of the see of Canterbury on the other side. A park is said to

have been enclosed by the same Archbishop, and in the days of King Henry VIII. the castle and its appendages, having had great sums of money expended upon them by successive possessors, were become so magnificent, that Archbishop Cranmer, observing the murmurs excited in consequence, was induced to yield it up to the king.

It was subsequently granted to Thomas Cromwell, Earl of Essex, but on the disgrace of that nobleman returned to the Crown. It was also part of the possessions of Thomas Beauchamp Earl of Warwick, and of Robert Dudley Earl of Leicester, Knight of the Garter and of St. Michael: and at length after numerous transfers is at present in the hands of Sir Brook Brydges of Goodnestone, Baronet.

Gale says that it was on this spot that the Romans built a castle to defend the port of Hythe, which had come into use instead of the Portus Lemanis; and that this was one of the forts which were deemed necessary for the security of the coast against the Saxons. He asserts that there were two Roman roads leading to it, one of them from Durolerum, and another from Duroverum, which crossed each other at the village of Lyminge. Some of the pavement belonging to one of these roads may be traced on the side of the hill between Saltwood and Hythe; and it is probable that those deep tracks which have been already mentioned as crossing the fields in the interior of the great ridge of southern hills near Alkham may have been part of these roads.

A large portion of Saltwood-Castle was thrown down by the shock of an earthquake, which was also se-

verely felt at Dover, Sandwich, and many other places on this coast, in the year 1580. The works which remain at present consist of a lofty embattled gate or entrance, which formerly had a draw-bridge and portcullis; and within the area of the walls, are the ruins of a chapel, hall, and several other spacious apartments. The gateway has been converted into a farm house, the area into a garden, and the remains of large vaults under different parts of the decaying building are used for various domestic purposes. The outer walls, which seem to have approached an oval form, are in some places from fifteen to twenty feet high, of vast thickness, and finely covered with ivy: and many of the turrets by which the angles and projections were formerly strengthened, are still remaining. The whole is surrounded with a deep ravine, and on the north side is the fragment of an elegant arch which formerly belonged to one of the principal entrances.

In what degree Saltwood-Castle could ever have contributed to the security of the Port of Hythe is difficult to imagine, without supposing that the landing-place was once much more inland than even Leland's account of the creek eastward of the town seems to indicate. At the time of Leland's survey, he speaks of "a pretty rode bakked from the mayne se with casting of shyngel, that smaull shippes may cum a large myle towards Folkstone, as in a sure gut."

The generally received opinion is, that when the sea had receded from Portus Lemanus (now Lympne) so as to leave that harbour dry, first West-Hythe,

and afterwards East Hythe, in turn, became a port. It is very evident that West-Hythe could not derive any security or protection from Saltwood-Castle, unless by its containing a garrison for the defence of the ancient road which approached it on the land side : and neither history nor tradition at all countenances the notion that there was a port on the eastern side of the present town as well as at West Hythe, which in the time of its prosperity was more than two miles distant from the remaining church of East-Hythe, and consequently scarcely less than three from Saltwood-Castle. Hence it seems more probable that it was the work of one of the kings of Kent during the Heptarchy, than that it was one of the watch-towers or forts erected by the Romans, who surely would not have deviated so much from their usual custom as to have built a fortification on a spot of ground entirely overlooked and commanded by the neighbouring heights, and so ill adapted for the purpose for which it has been conjectured to have been originally designed. Neither is there any vestige remaining to prove that the structure, or any part of it, was of Roman workmanship : and notwithstanding all the changes which it has undergone, it is scarcely to be supposed that not a wreck should have been left behind to point out the original founders, if Roman, whilst the works of their hands are usually so very visible in other edifices and ruins in this neighbourhood.

Amongst other circumstances connected with the history of this castle, it is asserted that the four assassins of Thomas à Beckett concerted their atrocious

attack upon that prelate within its walls, having passed the night here previous to his murder. It is of little consequence to know the haunts of bad men, and therefore scarcely worth the while to inquire into the truth or falsehood of the story. Those who are inclined to raise historic doubts may perhaps contend that Canterbury is at too great a distance from Saltwood-Castle, considering the mode of travelling seven or eight hundred years ago, to have admitted of the assassins arriving there in time to perpetrate the horrid deed *in the morning*, according to the most particular accounts preserved of the affair: they may also remark that it was impossible for the conspirators to foresee in what manner, or when, or where, they might meet with their victim. They might have slept at Saltwood-Castle, and there have arranged their plan; but was it possible for them to know that the Archbishop, in defiance of the remonstrances of his friends, would repeatedly expose himself to their violence unarmed and unattended? and therefore the place and circumstances of the murder, by which its atrocity was peculiarly aggravated, could not have made a part of their diabolical scheme. The names of the assassins were Richard Fitz Urse, William Tracey, Richard Britton, and Hugh Morrill; and all of them are said to have been above the middle rank of life. The castle of Saltwood was at that time held by Ranulph de Brock, whose son Robert had been excommunicated by Beckett.

Near the walls of the castle is a small stream called the Salt Brook, which runs through the valley,

and is all that remains of the creek or harbour mentioned by Leland. This stream crosses the road at the eastern extremity of Hythe, where it is the boundary of the jurisdiction of that port; and, bending its course westward, washes the south side of the town, and at a small dismantled battery called three gun battery, meeting with another rivulet (which, descending from the hills on the north west, passes the barracks appropriated to the use of the Royal Staff corps) their united stream turns abruptly towards the south, and falls into the military canal which is interposed between the town of Hythe and the sea, exactly opposite to the tower of Hythe church.

CHAP. XXII.

Hythe.—Town and Port.—Saltwood Barracks.

HYTHE is sheltered on the north and east by the chain of hills which have been so repeatedly mentioned, as commencing at Dover cliff, and running through Kent into Sussex. The principal buildings of the town extend along the foot of a portion of the hill connected with the heights of Saltwood, by which its eastern extremity is immediately overlooked. The church and some of the best houses are agreeably situated on the side of this hill, and have a picturesque appearance both on the approach from Ashford, and the opposite road from Folkstone and Sandgate.

The parish of Hythe extends from the sea shore to the middle of the hill above the church northward; and from a small bridge over the Salt Brook before described, to about one mile and a half westward.

Part of the contiguous parish of West-Hythe was formerly included with the modern town in a hundred of its own name, and according to Leland there were four parish churches in his time belonging to the united borough or port, with a stately abbey; and upon the contiguous hill, the course of some of the streets, and the foundations of many spacious houses, may still be traced.

The first incorporation of this place was by the title of the Barons of the Town and Port of Hythe; but the government was afterwards committed to the Archbishop of Canterbury, probably about the period when the neighbouring castle of Saltwood was added to the metropolitan see; and that prelate annually appointed a bailiff and jurats, who were the conservators of the peace. A new charter was granted by Queen Elizabeth under which the mayor, jurats, and commonalty, then nominated by the sovereign, together with the freemen, elect members to serve in Parliament. The mayor is chosen yearly on Candlemas day; and there are preserved a very ancient horn and mace, the badges of magisterial authority in old times.

The manor of Hythe was bestowed upon the priory of Christ Church in Canterbury, by King Alfred: but it was afterwards alienated, and Helden, who is called a prince of the Saxon line, restored it to the Church, as it is said, in 1036, the year in which Canute died. But whether Helden were the son of that monarch or not, does not appear. It was however resumed by King Henry II. in whose reign the town suffered greatly from the depredations of the refractory and piratical Earl Godwyn and his son, who carried away and destroyed all the vessels lying in the road. Afterwards, in the time of Henry IV. a pestilential disorder made dreadful havoc among the inhabitants; two hundred houses were also consumed by fire, and five of the ships belonging to the port, with a hundred mariners lost at sea. These distresses reduced the town to so mi-

serable a condition, that the surviving inhabitants are recorded to have formed the desperate resolution of entirely abandoning so unfortunate a spot, but were diverted from their intention by the encouragement of a new charter granted for the express purpose of affording them relief. Hythe was thereby exempted for five turns then next following, from the necessity of contributing its usual *quota* as one of the Cinque Ports, for the maintenance of the fleet and aid of the public service: namely, five ships with one hundred men, and five horses, for fifteen days at their own expense, and afterwards on government pay for so long a time as their services might be required.

From that period, the tide of good fortune seems to have returned. A method was discovered by which vessels of large burthen were raised upon the beach so as to lie secure from the effects of storms to which they had been, previously, most destructively exposed. King Henry VIII. built his castles on the coast, by which the trade and fisheries of Hythe and the neighbouring ports were protected; numerous coasting vessels were launched; store houses erected; markets and fairs established; and the commerce of the town has gradually increased, until in point of opulence it may now be presumed to rival almost any port of equal size in the kingdom. At present it contains more than 2300 inhabitants, of whom about 250 have votes at elections.

In the eighth year of the reign of Elizabeth, a survey was made in which Hythe is mentioned as containing one hundred and twenty-two inhabited

two creeks or landing-places, the one called *Hythe*, within the liberties, the other called the *Hythe*; of shipping, seventeen *travellers* of *Hythe* burthen, seven *shoters* of fifteen, three *Hythe* of thirty, four of forty tons, and one hundred persons chiefly employed in fishing; as also a *customer*, *comptroller*, and *searcher*, having distinct authority.

It had been described by Leland, as formerly "a very great towne yn length, containing four paroches," which he says, were "clene destroyed." The same learned antiquary mentions the great fire which had happened in the days of Edward II. by which he relates, that *more than eighteen score of houses were burnt*, and asserts, that "the ruines of the chyrches and chyrch-yardes" were then yet remaining; that it evidently appeared that the abbey had occupied the site of the present parish church; and that some of the offices belonging to it were close to a spring, near "the top of the church-yard."

The church, which is dedicated to St. Leonard, and accounted a chapel of ease to Saltwood, is, with that rectory, in the patronage of the Archbishop of Canterbury, and exempt from archidiaconal jurisdiction. It is a handsome edifice, with numerous turrets and pinnacles. The approach to it is by a flight of steps on the south side, made at the expense of William Glanville, Esq. who represented Hythe in Parliament, in 1729; and over the porch at the entrance of the church-yard is a room used by the corporation as their town hall, where the election of the mayor and other officers are holden.

The tower of the church is large and lofty, and has a very fine effect in perspective. In the year 1748 it was completely repaired; and many improvements in the building have been made by the munificence of the representatives in parliament, and other opulent inhabitants of the town. The aisles have been paved with Portland stone, branches for lights put up, and a good organ erected. On the west side of the cross aisle, exteriorly, may be traced, under a Saxon arch with zig-zag ornaments, an ancient door-way, which is conjectured to have led to the abbey, to which this church was probably appendant. There is no mark of this arch in the inner side of the wall; but the chancels are undoubtedly of great antiquity, and perhaps coeval with that part of the building which has been destroyed, the pillars being clustered like those of the choir of Canterbury cathedral, and formed of Sussex marble. The south cross aisle was rebuilt by the family of Deedes, who have during many centuries resided in the neighbourhood; and there are many monuments inscribed with their names, particularly one over the corporation pew, to the memory of Julius Deedes, Esq. thrice Baron in parliament, as often Mayor of Hythe, and Captain of the trained bands, who died in 1692. There are also memorials for Robert Kelway, A. M. Rector of Hope and St. Mary's; Isaac Rutton, Lieutenant of Sandgate castle; Robert Fiennes, Captain in the royal navy, who was killed in an engagement with an American squadron on Lake Erie, on the 13th of September, 1813. An old helmet, said to have belonged to Captain Weller, is preserved in the north

cross-aisle; and in the south aisle is the monument of Robinson Bean, ten times Mayor, and one of the Barons of this port, who assisted in bearing the canopy over the head of King James II. at his coronation.

In a vault under the chancel is an immense pile of human bones (which are placed with the utmost regularity) twenty-eight feet in length, eight in breadth, and six in height, having sunk two or three feet from the decay of the lower bones. They are said to have belonged to ancient Britons and Saxons, who were slain in a great battle fought on the shore, between Hythe and Folkstone, about the year of the Christian era 456, and consequently in the reign of Hengist, the first king of Kent. Such is the account given by various authors in opposition to the following narrative, preserved upon a board fixed up in the vault.

“ A. D. 143 : in the reign of Ethelwolf, the Danes landed on the coast of Kent, near to the town of Hyta, and proceeded as far as Canterbury, great part of which they burned; at length Gustavus (then Governor of Kent) raised a considerable force, with which he opposed their progress; and after an engagement, in which the Danes were defeated, pursued them to their shipping on the sea-coast, where they made a most obstinate resistance. The Britons, however, were victorious, but the slaughter was prodigious, there being not less than *thirty thousand* left dead. After the battle the Britons, *wearied* with fatigue, and perhaps shocked with the slaughter, returned to their homes, leaving the slain

on the field of battle, where, being exposed to the different changes of the weather, the flesh rotted from the bones, which were afterwards collected and piled in heaps by the inhabitants, who in time removed them into a vault in one of the churches of Hyta, now called Hythe."

In addition to this account, which is almost too circumstantial to be depended upon, it has been observed, that many of the skulls have deep cuts in them, which appear to have been made by a heavy weapon, such as the Saxons were accustomed to use in battle; and that their whiteness was produced by long exposure on the sea-shore.

Instead of attempting to decide whether these bones, agreeably to the last statement, are sixteen hundred years old, or whether, according to the preceding account, they are three hundred years younger, it may amuse the reader to quote another relation, as delivered by Mr. Hasted, a modern writer of considerable repute. In the description of a variety of curious particulars, with which that gentleman has favoured the public in his *History of Kent*, he has been pleased to mention an immense collection of bones deposited in a vault under the church at Folkstone; similar (he says) to those at Hythe! These he ingeniously imagines to have belonged to the Britons and Saxons, and not to the Danes; and says, that after a battle which was fought upon the banks of the Darent, in the western part of Kent, about the year 456, Vortimer, the British sovereign, pursued the Saxons to the sea-side, and made a great slaughter. Then in the true spirit of

an antiquarian proceeds to *suppose*, that the bones at Hythe were "probably those of the Britons," and those at Folkstone "of the Saxons." Unfortunately the learned author has neglected to inform us by what criterion he was enabled, after so many centuries to ascertain the different nations to which these relics belonged; and how the bones of an undistinguished multitude slain in battle, and promiscuously intermingled in a combat fought hand to hand, could, after they had lain bleaching upon the sea-shore for many ages, be classed together according to their respective countries: but there is the less occasion for him to have done so, because a very moderate share of curiosity and sagacity will enable his readers to discover, that *there are no such bones at Folkstone, nor ever were!* and that there is no more foundation for the story than for many of the wonders related by Sir John Mandeville in his Travels, or in the Adventures of Jack the Giant Killer; so that a wag has remarked, Mr. Hasted did not merely push conjecture to the verge of possibility, but to the edge of Folkstone cliff to break its neck.

The principal street of Hythe extends for about half a mile from east to west, is of a commodious width, and pretty well built. There are few houses in it which deserve to be called elegant, and few which have the appearance of great antiquity. It contains the market-place and guild-hall above it, some good inns, a public library, and subscription reading room, and many spacious and well-furnished shops.

On the south side of the town a pleasant walk,

which was formerly kept with great care and neatness, but has been unfortunately much neglected of late years, runs from the bank of the military canal in a direct line to the sea-beach, bordered by plantations of shrubs and trees which afford an agreeable shade, and render this spot the fashionable resort of company in summer evenings.

The coast here is low and flat, a great breadth of shingle, or pebbles intermixed with shells, bordering the water, scarcely above its level. It is raised into ridges, and alternately sunk into furrows, by the force of the waves, and would exhibit a dreary and unpleasing appearance if it were not enlivened by the remarkably fine curve, which is formed from Hythe to the southern projection called Dungeness, and the batteries and Martello towers along its margin, and the view of Lydd and Romney upon the great level of the contiguous marsh, backed by the summit of the Sussex hills, far distant in the western horizon, which altogether present an interesting landscape.

At the eastern extremity of Hythe a handsome building at the foot of Saltwood-heights has been erected for the use of the *Royal Staff Corps of Artificers*, which is permanently stationed here; and the road that passes in front of these barracks making a turn towards the north-east, leads to the summit of the hill, which is occupied by temporary buildings sufficiently capacious for the accommodation of four or five thousand troops. The prospect from this height, of the sea, and in a clear day of the coast of France, of Romney-marsh, the forts, and military-canal, with the blue hills of Sussex, will

induce those who have taken the pains to ascend the steep to turn their backs upon Saltwood barracks, which may thus escape some portion of animadversion and censure.

Hythe has long been the resort of invalids, for the purpose of bathing; and a considerable number of convenient lodging-houses have been recently built for the accommodation of visitors. They are, in general, upon a small scale; but in the season, the company, if not so numerous here as at some of the watering-places upon this coast, is as genteel and more select; and of late years much improved by the families of many military officers of rank, permanently or occasionally stationed in the vicinity; so that there are regular assemblies, card-clubs, and musical parties, as well as the usual routine of amusements incident to such a situation. There is also a neat theatre, but opened only every alternate year.

The market is well supplied with fruit and poultry, as well as fish and other commodities; and there is an annual show of fat mutton, besides two fairs for cattle and pedlary.

CHAP. XXIII.

Vicinity of Hythe.—Westenhanger.—Mount-Morris.—Monk's Horton.—Wye.

WITHIN the distance of an easy morning's ride from Hythe stands

WESTENHANGER-HOUSE,

which, on the authority of tradition, was a royal palace in the reign of King Henry II. The mutilated statue of a royal personage, one hand grasping a sceptre, was found among the ruins, and supposed to have represented that monarch. Part of the ancient building was also called Rosamond's tower, from the celebrated beauty of that name, who is reported to have inhabited Westenhanger palace, previously to her removal to Woodstock; and a room denominated Rosamond's prison or gallery, an hundred and sixty feet in length, is said to have been destroyed in the course of those alterations, which at different periods have nearly removed all the traces of its pristine splendour.

In the reign of Richard I. this mansion was the property of Auberville, a follower of the Conqueror; afterwards belonged to the Criols, one of whose descendants obtained license from King Edward III.

to endow a chauntry in the chapel of St. John in Westenhanger, and to embattle and make loop-holes in his house there. In later times it was in the possession of the family of Fagge, and next of Sir Edward Poynings, Governor of Dover Castle, Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, and Knight of the Garter. It subsequently reverted to the Crown, and after passing through various hands, was partly demolished by Mr. Champneys, who converted that part of the building which remained, into a neat and comfortable residence; but within a few years, that also yielded to the taste of the present proprietor, was taken down, and a yet smaller house erected upon its site.

The old house was moated round, had formerly a draw-bridge, gate-house, and portal, of which the arch was lofty and strong, springing from polygonal pillars, and secured by a portcullis. The outer walls were high, and strengthened with towers, some square, others circular, and the whole embattled. Over the door was a carved figure of St. George on horseback, and under it four shields, one bearing the arms of England, and another a key and crown supported by angels.

A flight of steps led to the chapel, erected by Sir Edward Poynings in the reign of Henry VIII. and vaulted with stone. The great hall was fifty feet long having a gallery at one end, and at the other cloisters which communicated with the chapel and principal apartments, of which there are reported to have been an hundred and twenty-six in number,

with the old story of as many windows as there are days in the year.

There was also a park, which extended over the rising grounds to the south and east, as far as the road leading from Ashford to Hythe, near the handsome modern seat of Mr. Deedes, at Sandling.

All that at present remains of this once-princely mansion, and the buildings which belonged to it, are masses of its towers sinking into the moat, and portions of its walls covered with ivy, or half hidden by the gloomy shade of large trees, which have sprung out of the dust of its ruins, and spread their tortuous branches as if to guard them from future encroachments. One mile and half from Westenhanger is

MOUNT-MORRIS,

the seat of the late eccentric Lord Rokeby, who, in an age of refinement and luxury, studiously avoided every species of ostentation, and lived in simplicity and seclusion; and when arrived at the extremest verge of life, not only denied himself those indulgencies which are commonly deemed essential to existence itself, but pursued a course of temperance so rigid that it amounted to austerity, and a mode of life which every person besides himself would have thought a mortification. The biography of this extraordinary man is in the hands of the public. His simplicity of manners and venerable appearance, heightened by the effect of a patriarchal

beard, will long be remembered in the neighbourhood of his residence. In his Lordship's character there seems to have been too much of the phlegm of the philosopher for him to appear amiable, and too little of the sage to attract reverence. His temper, whilst it merited commendation for a bold disdain of the restraints of fashion, and encumbrances of *etiquette*, was sometimes justly censured as pertinacious; and the singularity of his opinions were more frequently referred to a want of *common* sense, than to the possession of superior talents and sagacity. This perhaps would not have been the case, if his singularity had been less evident in the *ordinary* affairs of life, and those which in general appeared of too little moment to occupy the attention even of those who were yet willing to concede much to the superiority of his abilities and genius on subjects of greater importance.

He amassed wealth, and hoarded vast sums of useless gold; useless to himself, and which he determined, so long as he lived, should remain useless to others: bags filled with guineas, scrupulously weighed, and with puerile minuteness labelled G. G. (*for good guineas*) to the amount of many thousands, were, after his death, found in his closet, where an ordinary lock and key had been deemed a sufficient security for them, although nothing could have overcome his anxious fears of the failure of the Bank of England, nor induce him to believe that his cash would be in any degree so safely lodged there, as in an apartment open to every casual visitor, in an old dilapidated mansion-house in a remote part of the

country. Besides the particulars already published, whoever is induced to pay a visit to Mount-Morris, may there collect a thousand amusing anecdotes of this extraordinary man, which will render the scene the more striking; incidents beneath the notice of the biographer and historian, yet of sufficient importance to engage the attention of the tourist, to excite his curiosity, and gratify his inquiries.

The house was substantially and handsomely built with brick, from a plan of Sir Christopher Wren, but is now in so neglected and decayed a condition, that the surrounding scenery, and the fine slopes and swells, and trees and verdure of the park, can scarcely remove a sensation of melancholy and gloom, which its premature decay, and the miserable disorder of every thing around it, naturally tend to excite. Lord Rokeby's father was an artist of considerable eminence; and the hall at Mount-Morris still contains many excellent specimens of his ability as a portrait painter, in various copies from Rubens, Vandyke, and other great masters, upon pannel; some of them but little inferior to the originals. A full length of Charles II. and heads of King Henry VIII. Queen Elizabeth, Mary Queen of Scots, King James I. and a portrait of William III. are especially worthy of notice.

In the library, an apartment on the right hand upon entering the house, are also, over the doors, views of Sandgate-Castle in its ancient state, and of the old house at Westenhanger. An old bookcase was the only article of furniture remaining in the house when the writer of this account was permitted

to inspect it—bearing the motto, *Maxima est veritas*. The staircase, once decorated with paintings, like all the rest of the apartments, had lost its splendour ; and the wind whistled dismally through the broken sashes.

Near the stables, at the corner of a shrubbery, still remains the green-house, converted by Lord Rokeby into a bath, and hither at all seasons, amidst the frosts of the severest winter, equally as under the genial influence of the summer's sun, his Lordship constantly resorted, once, twice, or thrice a day, and sometimes passed whole hours in the water, stretched apparently at his ease in a shallow bason ; and his silver beard, which had been suffered to grow to an enormous length, floating loosely on the surface.

Within the park stands the parish church of

MONK'S HORTON,

a small structure with a *non-descript* turret of boards at the west end, more like the top of a windmill than the tower of a church. It serves, however, to contain three bells, and to distinguish the building to which it belongs from the hind's cottage, and the gardener's lodge. The churchyard is also marked by two yew trees of very unusual size, which are probably coeval with the building ; and although hollow and decayed (their once lofty heads and wide-spreading branches being closely shorn by the hand of time) the renovating power of nature, which has thrown up shoots within the rind of the old trunks, bids fair for a protracted duration, at least as long as

the fabric shall last, to which they have mutually afforded shade, and from which have derived shelter for so many ages.

In the chancel, within the communion rails, and on the north side, is an ancient monument of the family of Rooke, formerly possessors of the estate and mansion, which afterwards descended to Lord Rokeby.

Laurence Rooke, who was a famous astrologer, and is mentioned with great commendation by Dr. Sprat, Bishop of Rochester, in his History of the Royal Society, died in 1662, leaving a son George, who was the father of Sir William Rooke of St. Laurence, near Canterbury, and died in 1690; and grandfather of that distinguished and gallant Admiral Sir George Rooke, K. B. On the opposite side, immediately over the vault in which his remains are deposited, is a neat tablet, with a modest but suitable inscription commemorative of Lord Rokeby, who was a baronet of England, and a baron of Ireland, having succeeded to those titles on the death of his uncle, that most worthy and reverend prelate Dr. Richard Robinson, late Lord Archbishop of Armagh, primate of all Ireland. Here also lie buried his Lordship's father and mother, one brother who was unfortunately drowned in crossing the Channel, and other members of the family; and over their pew, on the north side of the church, is hung up a glass case, in which is contained a very long copy of laudatory verses, said to have been composed by one of his female ancestors, exquisitely written upon vellum, as a memorial, in which almost every expression of virtuous praise is lavishly applied, to various individuals enumerated in them; but the

ink is become so pale that, amongst those who might have sufficient patience, there will probably be very few whose sight will enable them to examine its contents.

An intricate road, through a wild and woody country northward of Monk's Horton, leads to

WYE,

a little town situated about midway between Sea Salter on the northern coast of Kent, and Dymchurch on the south.

It was once a place of note, but has sunk into a condition of comparative insignificance. Not even a turnpike road passes through it; the track which leads from Canterbury to Ashford, leaving it at some distance on the left hand.

Notwithstanding its present obscurity, the decay of its trade, and decline of its markets, it was formerly distinguished as the residence of kings, and a royal manor. It was bestowed upon the Abbey of Battle by William the Conqueror; and a college was founded here in the year 1447, by Archbishop Kemp, for a provost and six fellows, with a school, which, at the dissolution, was granted by Henry VIII. to Walter Buckler, as a school for teaching boys and young lads grammar. Another school was endowed in 1708, by the Lady Joanna Thornhill, and the original establishment was augmented by the reverend Sir George Wheler, prebendary of Durham, who annexed to it the college, as a residence for the master, and for the

master and mistress of Lady Thornhill's school. It also received an additional benefaction from his son.

Many antiquities have been discovered in the neighbourhood; and Pett Street, in the valley between Wye Down and Crondal, bears evidence of its Roman origin.

St. Eustachius, or Eustace, an abbot in the twelfth century, began his ministry at Wye; and, according to the account delivered by Matthew Paris, with great success. He is said to have consecrated the holy well on the south side of the town, which, having received his blessing, became endowed with manifold virtues, insomuch as to be capable of curing *all* distempers. Amongst other proofs of its wonderful efficacy, a relation is preserved of the singular and miraculous cure of a dropsical woman, who implored the saint's assistance; and was directed by him to resort to this fountain of health, and drink thereof. She did so; and immediately becoming sick, there issued out of her mouth (in the sight, of course, of many persons who were come to be healed at the same time) two exceeding large *black toads*, which, in the twinkling of an eye first changed to dogs, and soon afterwards into two asses. The woman was much terrified, but happily made whole; and her fears abated as the asses, upon being sprinkled with some of the holy water, immediately vanished "into thin air!" So great a miracle, as might well be expected, vastly advanced the reputation of the well, and occasioned a great resort to it of persons who, like the modern visitors of watering and bathing

places, probably brought "no small gain to the craftsmen."

Lest this should be called a *spurious* miracle, the cure was attested *by the person who kept the spring*, as well as by the woman herself, who was a native of Wye, so that it rests perhaps upon as incontrovertible authority, as many of the wonderful cures of which accounts are inserted in modern newspapers, with the signatures of lords, and ladies, and knights of the garter.

The church of Wye is spacious and lofty. It is remarkable that the steeple, which had been struck by lightning in 1572, but repaired, fell down in 1686, at the very moment that the congregation had quitted the church, and before they had left the church-yard, but without doing any hurt excepting to the body of the edifice.

CHAP. XXIV.

Shepway-Cross.

RETURNING into the turnpike road leading from Ashford to Hythe, near Sellinge, and proceeding along it to the Royal Oak at Newin-green, a track on the right hand, which was probably a portion of one of the Roman roads, leads to

SHEPWAY CROSS,

a place once so considerable as to have imparted its name to the whole Lathe in which it is situated—a division of the county peculiar to Kent, and consisting of a fifth part of it. At Shepway Cross in early times, the Lymen Archa, or Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, took his oath of office; and pleas and assemblies relative to the government of the ports were also held there.

Half a mile distant from this remarkable spot, westward, on the very brow of the hill which overlooks the coast, the line of the military canal, and the whole extent of Romney Marsh, stand the castle and church of

LYMPNE.

The former is supposed to have been erected by the Romans to protect their ancient port, as well as the road by which it communicated with the interior of

the country ; and which, running through the ancient forest of Blane, and crossing the way which led from Ashford to Dover, formed a junction with the Watling Street at Canterbury. This line may be traced in various places, and considerable remains of it still retain the appellation of Stone Street.

The prospects from every part of the ridge, occupied by Lympe Church and the contiguous buildings, are of the first order of beauty and extent. The several objects before enumerated as seen from the eminences in the vicinity of Hythe, are here more distinctly visible, and especially the varieties of the coast, the fine curve of the shore terminating at Dungeness Point ; the batteries and towers by which it is defended ; the towns in the marsh ; the military canal, which borders the foot of the huge ridge of eminences on which the spectator takes his stand, with the blue hills of Sussex in the distant horizon, and the famous land mark of Pevensey.

The tide formerly approached the foot of this hill, now clothed with wood ; and here was the capacious haven or port called Portus Lemanus, which afforded the only safe harbour on the southern coast of England.

Where ships once sailed, cattle are now seen grazing : where once flowed the river Lympe (for so the Rother was anciently called), is now an expanse of level fields, where patches of verdure are strikingly intermingled with the sand and pebbles of the sea-shore, which have blocked up its channel and filled the harbour.

A signal post and telegraph have been lately re-

moved, which in time of war occupied the eastern point of the hill near the church-yard.

A castellated mansion close to the church westward, belongs to the Archdeacon of Canterbury, to whose gift and peculiar jurisdiction the living belongs.

The walls of this house are of great strength, built with stone, and in one of the apartments are two spacious fire places, each measuring from five to six yards in width. There is also an octagon turret with a stone staircase at the west end, and an ancient porch on the north side; the opposite being nearly inaccessible on account of the steepness of the hill. The premises are now in the occupation of a farmer, and the domestic offices as well as the mansion itself, abound with proofs of the remote antiquity of the building.

The church is very plain, and wholly unornamented. A strong and very low Saxon arch, at the west end of the tower, is the principal entrance, at not more than the distance of five or six feet from the mansion house; but there is also another door on the north side. On the south the walls are strengthened and supported by immense buttresses, reaching from their foundation in the solid rock, upon which the church is built, as high as the walls themselves. The roof has been formerly considerably higher than at present, as evidently appears from the marks still remaining against the east side of the tower.

In the walls are great numbers of Roman bricks. The church-yard is very extensive, and contains many old tombs; but there are no monumental inscriptions of an early date.

Eastward of Lympe castle, and about one mile from it, are the remains of an ancient chapel dedicated to the blessed Virgin Mary, under the title of "Our Lady of Court at Street." Here in the year 1525, Elizabeth Barton, a pretended prophetess who had obtained the name of "the holy maid of Kent," was encouraged by certain priests and others to foretell events; and acquired such a reputation for sanctity, that pilgrimages were made to the chapel, and votive offerings brought in great abundance from all quarters. The delusion, however, was soon over; for upon the dispute between King Henry VIII. and the Pope, respecting his marriage, "the maid of Kent" had the imprudence to prognosticate that if the King proceeded with the divorce he "should lose his crown, and die the death of a dog." She was in consequence brought before the Star Chamber, where, confessing herself to be an impostor, she was convicted, and, together with five of her accomplices (one of whom was a clergyman) executed at Tyburn.

Nearer Hythe, on the northern bank of the military canal, the ruins of

STUDFALL CASTLE

occupy a green meadow on the side or breast of the hill which sustains the buildings of Lympe.

Studfall castle was one of the five forts or watch towers erected by Theodosius; and it is asserted that it once stood close to the water; and many round holes or grooves are still to be traced, which, it has been conjectured, were made for the cables of vessels

to be moored close under its walls. The latter must have been of very great strength; for their thickness is not less than twelve or thirteen feet, and in some places much more: and the materials of which they are composed, being hard stones, pebbles, and Roman bricks, are so well cemented together, that after sixteen hundred years it is impossible to disunite them. The reader may perhaps smile when he is informed that the writer of this account passed many hours most laboriously endeavouring to detach a single Roman brick entire from its cement, without being able to accomplish it.

Studfall castle was garrisoned by soldiers of the legion *Turnacensis*; but it is difficult to form an idea of its original arrangement. Hasted, in the *History of Kent*, amongst many errors which are not the more excusable because he visited the spot in person, describes these works as enclosed by a double wall on the land side; a mistake probably occasioned by some portions of the fragments having slipped forward from their bases, and by reason of the sloping ground, lying prostrate at the distance of a few yards from their original situation, and in a line with the wall to which they belonged.

The Roman tiles are regularly disposed in double layers at intervals of about four or five feet; so that as the masses of the walls are nowhere of a very considerable height, only two layers, in general, or at most only three courses of them, can be traced. They are perfectly well burnt, very red and smooth on their outside, and when broken are uniformly found of a dark or slate-blue colour within. They

measure about eleven inches in breadth, and twenty-one in length; the edges being turned up so as to form two ledges upon the surface, about three quarters of an inch in height. There are a few varieties of form: some of these tiles being near two inches in thickness and without any ledge; and fragments of others of a paler colour have been picked up, which appeared to have been square, with a number of small raised double lines regularly disposed, and very delicately finished, although, like the rest, they had evidently been worked up amongst the ordinary materials used in the building.

The area of the ground upon which these broken walls are scattered is about four acres; and from the various inequalities of the surface, it may be conjectured that a careful and deliberate examination might lead to a discovery of the original foundations, although it may be doubted whether the success of such an attempt, or the information likely to result from it, would compensate for the trouble and expense of the undertaking.

In Leland's survey, the church of "our Lady of West Hythe," is stated to be within half a mile of Lympe Hill. The walls of this edifice are partly standing near the northern bank of the military canal; not only in a condition of ruinous decay, but profaned by the vilest uses to which it is possible for a Christian church to have been misapplied; one part of it being made use of for a pig-stye, and the remainder serving as a depository for the cast-off wheels of a dung-cart! The dilapidated condition of this building is not imputed to the incumbent of

the *sinecure* rectory to which it belongs, and said to be worth at least 300*l.* per annum as a fault; but common decency should at least have preserved a sacred edifice from such brutal violation.

The roof of the building seems to have been long decayed; the wall of the east end is wholly destroyed; that on the south side rent from top to bottom; a large tree has sprung up within the area, and spreads its branches over the sacred enclosure as if to afford it that protecting shelter which the negligent hand of man ungratefully denies. Yet so strong are the remaining fragments of the walls, and so firm their foundation, that many a stately fabric now towering in its pride, and glittering with splendour, may be laid prostrate in the dust, and left without one stone upon another, before the ruins of this humble house of prayer shall cease to afford a melancholy memento to the passing traveller.

CHAP. XXV.

Romney Marsh.—Dymchurch Wall.—The Circular Redoubt.

THE banks of the military canal afford a pleasant walk, and, as has been before observed, are the northern boundary of

ROMNEY MARSH,

which, extending from the vicinity of Rye in Sussex, to the entrance of the town of Hythe, a distance of twenty miles, is in an opposite direction from the contiguous highlands near Lympne and Appledore northward to the sea shore, in some parts of it ten miles in breadth.

The whole of this immense track remained for many ages a bed of sand and ouzy ground, subject to be frequently overflowed by the tide, until by the laudable exertions of some spirited individuals, it was intersected by drains, and divided and secured by embankments; so that from this once useless and desert spot more than *fifty thousand* acres of rich and productive land have been gained to the country. The most important part of this great undertaking was the formation of that portion of the embankment called

DYMCHURCH WALL,

beginning about three miles west of Hythe, and extending to the village of Dymchurch. It is a vast body of earth defended towards the sea by numerous rows of strong piles, to which are fastened planks and fagots forming a raddle work, with sluices at certain distances, for effectually draining the *marsh* which it encloses; so contrived that the shingle and sand thrown up by the waves increase the security of the embankment.

Since the completion of this work, the lands have become almost incalculably more valuable than before; and an act of parliament has been obtained in order to encourage their farther improvement, by granting privileges to persons inclined to settle upon them. The towns of Romney and Lydd are included in the district of the Marsh, and together with nineteen parishes were incorporated by the title of "bayliff, jurats, and commonalty, of Romney Marsh." The inhabitants, in addition to this royal grant, have laws and regulations for the distribution and settlement of the rights of pasturage, and for the maintenance of the embankments, sluices, and drains, called "*the statutes of sewers*," which are said to have been originally framed by Henry de Bathe, a *justiciary* especially appointed for that purpose, in the reign of Henry III. and all affairs relative to the property and jurisdiction of the marsh, its embankments and drains, are still regulated by the members of its

corporation, who are commonly dignified by the title of "Lords of the Level."

It must have been by slow degrees that Romney Marsh acquired sufficient firmness of texture and solidity of turf to bear large cattle, without frequent accidents from the numerous bogs with which, for a long time, even the more compact parts of it were interspersed: and even now, the number of cows and horses to be seen throughout this extensive track, bears a very small proportion to the sheep, with which it every where abounds. The latter, that are bred in the Marsh, grow to a large size, and are remarkable for the excellence of their wool. It is the usual practice of the breeders to drive their lambs to pasture in the high grounds, on the approach of winter, when they would otherwise be liable to become diseased; and early in the spring, as soon as the ground is become dry, to bring them back again into these rich marches, where they soon thrive prodigiously. Those parts of the Marsh which are cultivated as arable, are, in general, highly productive; and hops are planted (but not very extensively) even near the sea-side, where they arrive at perfection, as well as in many of the inland districts, provided they have sufficient shelter from the wind.

Peat is found at various depths, in almost every part of the district; and the numerous drains and deep trenches by which it is intersected in all directions, cause more of that substance to be covered than in almost any other part of England. The wood found imbedded amongst it is in many instances very firm and hard, and as black as ebony. There can

be no doubt that the woody track, which is described by ancient writers to have extended from Portus Lemanus to the distance of more than an hundred and twenty miles in a north-western direction, stretching through Surry and Berkshire, into the very heart of the country,—in early times covered at least part of Romney Marsh; large trunks of trees being not only found buried beneath its surface, but here and there starting as it were from the beds of shingle, with which it is irregularly patched.

Entering the Marsh, by a perfectly level road, which bending towards the south-west, at the end of the town of Hythe, passes a strong fortification, denominated, from its form,

THE CIRCULAR REDOUBT,

which is built at the eastern extremity of Dymchurch Wall, in a range with the Martello towers. The spot was formerly occupied by a building called Brookman's barn, by which appellation it is still better known by the inhabitants of the neighbourhood, than by its proper military name; and for want of knowing that circumstance, travellers have sometimes been not only inconveniently misled by the answers which they have received to their inquiries respecting the road, but have lost an opportunity of inspecting one of the most interesting of all the ingenious works constructed for the defence of the coast.

On the land side, its exterior promises nothing extraordinary, the embrasures and cannon mounted upon its ramparts being objects with which all who

pass through this part of the country must be familiarly acquainted ; nor will the wet ditch or balance bridge be regarded as unusual appendages of a battery situated on a level with the sea, and close to the beach. But upon entering the gates, the perfect neatness and regularity of the building, its singularity, simplicity, and ingenuity of arrangement can scarcely fail to engage attention and excite applause.

A broad terrace of exquisitely fine smooth sand, surrounds an area of at least an hundred and fifty feet in diameter, guarded by an elegant iron balustrade on the one side, and sheltered on the other by a strong parapet or breast work with embrasures, in which are mounted upon traversing carriages a range of long twenty-four pounders, capable of being elevated to any angle, and disposed in such a manner, that, whilst the fort itself is not only inaccessible, but absolutely unseen from the water, they may be brought to bear in every direction, and of effectually resisting any attempt to land upon this part of the coast. A double flight of stone steps descends into the area, which, as was before observed, is circular, and affords an idea of the *gymnasium* and *arena* of the ancients ; and around it, under the terrace walks before mentioned, are casemate barracks, secured by immense columns and arches of brick-work, bomb proof ; but cheerfully lighted by sashes opening around the area ; and the smoke issuing from the chimneys, made to escape through small openings into the surrounding fosse. In a word, nothing can be more regular in its contrivance, or neater and more

trim in appearance, than the Circular Redoubt near Dymchurch.

At this place begins that important work Dymchurch Wall, the steep mound or bank which forms its boundary northward running in a line parallel with the fine level road; but whilst it affords the convenience of shelter, unfortunately for nearly two miles completely intercepts the prospect of the sea, from every description of travellers excepting pedestrians, who amongst the numerous *independent* advantages which the ingenious author of "A Walk through Wales" has been pleased to assign them, may here enjoy the exclusive privilege of a view of Old Ocean, as well as inhale its refreshing breezes, both of which are denied to those who travel in a coach and six, at the foot of the wall.

The Martello towers ranged along the coast here occupy a bank or islet of shingle close to the road.

DYMCHURCH

appears more considerable in consequence of several detached farm-houses, and their respective offices, which from the perfect level of the intervening ground, when viewed at a little distance, seem to approximate themselves with the buildings of that village; and the spire of the church, together with the general air of neatness, renders the scene very pleasing.

The view of the Marsh from the road is indistinct, for want of elevation; but the Light-house on the southern point of the shore, and the lofty tower of

the church of Lydd, become every minute more plainly visible, and assume more importance as features of the picture.

Having passed through Dymchurch by an easy curve in the road, and proceeding along the coast, the last of the range of Martello towers is seen on the left hand, about three miles distant from Romney.

NEW ROMNEY,

still a borough (and formerly a port) arose into notice out of the ruin and decay of Old Romney, which now, besides the church, contains only a few straggling houses. But New Romney itself, notwithstanding its name, is so far from being a modern town, that it is recorded to have been in a very flourishing condition as early as the time of the Conquest. Leland describes "Rumeney" as one of the Cinque Ports, which he says had a pretty good haven, so that ships could approach very near to the town; and that, in his time, there were persons living who asserted that they could remember when vessels had thrown out their anchors upon one of the church-yards. He adds that the sea had retreated, so that it was two miles from the town, which was so much decayed, that instead of containing three large parishes and their churches, one only could then be "scant maintained."

This account of Leland has been quoted and misquoted again and again; and a modern writer has fallen into the glaring mistake of reading *eleven*

miles instead of two, for the distance of Romney from the sea shore.

The town has a neat (but not well-looking) pavement of red brick, similar to that in some of the streets of Brighton. It contains many well-built houses, and has a guild-hall, in which the court of the Cinque Ports is held. Old Romney, Promhill, Lydd, Orlestone, and Dungeness, are considered limbs of Romney, which sends two members or barons to parliament, elected by the mayor, jurats, and commonalty; the mayor being the returning officer, and the number of voters about eighty.

The church is a fine specimen of Saxon architecture; but many of the most delicate ornaments of the arches, carving and foliage, have been obliterated or defaced by a covering of white-wash, which seems to have occasioned the mistake of some authors, who have represented the building as much more modern than it really is.

Even the tower, which from its great height was less exposed to mischievous attempts at improvement, has suffered various mutilations, many of the arches having been filled up, and entirely a new character given to the style of building, by the introduction of some architectural fancies at the summit, which no longer boasts a stone of the original building.

In the interior are numerous monuments of the families of Smyth, Brett, Baker, Tookey, and other of the *viri illustrissimi palustres*, and ancient inhabitants of this district.

The chancel, which has two side aisles, is enclosed;

and highly ornamented with a fine roof of wainscot painted and gilt at the expense of the family of Furness, formerly barons of this port in parliament, and by whose munificence also the seats of the mayor and corporation were fitted up in a manner suitable to the "representatives of majesty."

Many of the more ancient tombs and slabs are of Bethersden marble. One of them in the pavement is inscribed with the name of Lambart, and the date 1514: and a raised tomb for the family of Smyth, with the date 1610, has four small figures in brass.

The font, which stands in the south-west corner of the church, is of black veined marble, and esteemed of very high antiquity:—it however differs in form (being of an elegant vase-like shape) from the greater number of those whose remote date is unquestionable, such as those at Canterbury, Stewkley in Buckinghamshire, and especially Winchester.

The tower contains eight bells, which are reckoned very musical. At the west end of the building the ground has been raised to within five feet of the capitals of the pillars, and spring of the arch, which, judging from the span of it, must have been originally very lofty.

In the level fields which border the town on the south-west, is the appearance of a kind of rampart of earth, thrown up probably for the purpose of defence, either against the incursion of an enemy or the effects of inundation, and apparently of modern date.

A foot-path crosses these fields, which are partly in tillage, the soil being light and sandy, but productive, and partly covered with a beautifully green, soft turf,—and conducts the traveller, by a nearer way than the carriage road, to Lydd.

CHAP. XXVI.

Lydd.

THE town of Lydd may be ranked as the second in municipal importance, within the jurisdiction of the Marsh; but it, in fact, contains almost twice as many inhabitants as Romney, its parent port. It occupies a very extensive site, appearing to consist of small farm-houses, with a few shops placed near together, without much regularity. It has been supposed that the illicit commerce of smuggling was formerly carried on here, as the principal employment of the inhabitants; but considering the number of revenue officers stationed in the neighbourhood, and the vigorous activity and loyal disposition of the people of all ranks, it is probable that there was more of calumny than truth in such a reflection upon their principles and conduct. At the same time it must be confessed that it is difficult to imagine in what manner such numbers of stout, hale-looking men as are seen continually sauntering about, and hovering upon the coast, can even provide food for their numerous families without any visible occupation. Of fishing there is very little; of trade still less; and the immediate vicinity of Lydd is, of all parts of Romney Marsh, the least capable of affording agricultural employment to such an increasing population.

The church of Lydd is very spacious ; and the body of the edifice being long and low, the tower, which is really lofty, appears still higher. At the south-west corner is a turret of the ornamented gothic, of which there is so beautiful a specimen in the tower of Magdalen College, in Oxford. The church is ornamented with pinnacles, and has handsome buttresses, but the whole of the edifice is going very fast to decay. The south aisle of the chancel has been entirely demolished excepting a small fragment of the wall scarcely observable above the ground, and the door of the church on the same side appears to have been lately closed up, with a view to the safety of that part of the building.

Lydd, as well as Romney, has a pavement of red and very hard bricks ; and in the principal street is a neat market-house, supported by pillars of the same materials.

The custom-house is subject to that at Dover, although the town is a limb or member of Romney.

In order to obtain the indulgence of visiting the

LIGHT-HOUSE AT DUNGENESS,

which is situated on the extreme southern point of Romney Marsh, at the distance of between four and five miles from Lydd, it is necessary to apply for a written order to the Mayor. The urbanity and attention of Mr. Cobb, the worthy chief magistrate, by whose permission that view of it was taken which supplies the following description, would have amply compensated for a greater deviation from the direct

road, and much more trouble than was occasioned by the necessity of making that application.

The regulation seems not only highly proper, but absolutely requisite, as well to prevent the danger which might result from indiscriminate admission into the building, as to avoid the continual interruption, which, without some such restraint, mere curiosity itself would occasion. Were every visitor of Dungeness compelled to *walk* thither indeed, though only from Lydd, there would probably be very few whose resolution would not be subdued by the toilsome difficulty of the way; but it can scarcely be conceived that where neither hedge, nor ditch, nor hill, nor quagmire interposes, the distance of a few miles could present a task so laborious as that of traversing the loose and slippery *shingles*, sand, and pebbles, which cover this shore.

The point of land on which the light-house is built has been for ages gradually increasing by means of the pebbles washed up by every tide, and superadded to the beach. The appearance of the surface plainly indicates the manner and degrees of the accumulation, by ridges which form a bold curve from south-east to south-west, and when viewed at a distance, and especially from the top of the light-house, resemble the inequalities of ploughed lands. These are entirely composed of the sand and pebbles left behind by the waves. At about two miles beyond Lydd, the patches of *shingle* increase in size; and as the traveller proceeds, usurp the place of the turf, until a few rushes here and there are the only

remains of vegetation ; and nearer the extremity of the land, not a blade of grass, not even a particle of moss, is perceptible for miles ; but the whole expanse is one unvarying scene of arid sands so loose and slippery as to afford no firmness of footing.

Those persons who by their occupation are compelled to traverse this dreary strand commonly use a sort of clogs made of a flat piece of board, fastened with a leather thong or strap round the ankle, without which it is scarcely possible, especially in wet or windy seasons, to keep upon their feet.

The old light-house stood at the distance of five hundred and forty yards northward of the present building, on the spot since occupied by a fort, which was erected with other fortifications (many of them equally expensive and useless) upon this coast, under the direction of the late Duke of Richmond, when Master General of the Ordnance ; but having fallen into decay, the area enclosed by the ramparts at present only contains a wooden barrack, in which is occasionally stationed a small party of artillery men. The fort is an octagon, enclosed by a deep ditch ; and within is an excellent well of fine water. The brick-work and other materials used in constructing the ramparts are scarcely worth so much as it would cost to remove them even to Lydd ; and it were to be wished that they were bestowed upon the keeper of the neighbouring light-house, who, in the midst of these dreary sands, has with most commendable industry formed a garden which only requires better shelter than a few broken planks and

pieces of wreck and sail-cloth, its present fence, to render it productive, and highly conducive to the comfort of the poor man and his family.

The present light-house, when erected in 1792, was one hundred yards from the sea at low water; but the distance has been increased to three hundred yards in consequence of the accumulation of sand as before-mentioned; so that it may be fairly inferred, a few years will render it useless, like the former building, to the purpose for which it was originally designed, if, contrary to expectation, it should even for that time be capable of resisting the storms and tempests to which its situation is peculiarly exposed, and which threaten it with speedy destruction. A casual traveller, who neither professes to be an engineer nor an architect, may perhaps be accused of temerity for venturing to offer an opinion upon the construction of a work which requires consummate skill and genius in its arrangement and execution; but the bare inspection of a superficial observer would convince every person of plain common sense that the light-house at Dungeness is ill-designed, and worse built; an equal disgrace to the head which formed its plan, and the hands which raised its walls.

The building is about one hundred feet in height, and as many in circumference, gradually diminishing as it ascends. It is divided into seven stories; lighted, or it might be more properly said *darkened*, by small *square* windows, which from that particular form being chosen, admit scarcely a beam of sunshine. At the summit is an apartment covered with

copper, with apertures for the escape of smoke, and enclosed by a window divided into ten compartments, each of which contains twelve large squares of plate-glass.

A circular frame of iron fixed upon ten pillars, six feet high, supports seventeen Argand lamps, each having a concave reflector, twenty inches in diameter, strongly plated with silver, placed behind the lights, which are kept constantly burning during the night.

In the centre is a large stove, in which, in winter, it is found necessary to keep a continual fire, in order to prevent the congelation of the oil in the tubes of the lamps; a circumstance which a very obvious alteration in the mode of constructing them would have rendered entirely unnecessary. Considerable trouble and expense would thus have been saved, and the danger of accidents by fire avoided. At present if a live coal should happen to fall out of the grate (which has nothing but a common fender to guard it) upon the floor or the stairs, which are *both of wood*, and from the heat of this apartment in a state highly combustible, the whole of the building would probably be instantly in a blaze. The foundation is said to be laid with blocks of Purbeck stone seven feet in thickness, imbedded in the dry gravel of the beach. Thus far, all was well. The superstructure scarcely rises above the ground before it becomes the just object of criticism and censure. It is raised of brick-work, and the walls are of considerable thickness; but the mortar being imprudently mixed up with the sea-water, the walls were

not finished before they began to be covered with a saline efflorescence, the sure forerunner of decomposition and decay; and only a few years had elapsed when the arch which supported the first story gave way at its abutments, and threatened the immediate destruction of the building. This error was the more glaring, because excellent water in the greatest abundance may be obtained by digging within a few yards of the light-house! Strong buttresses were then erected, and thus propped on the north-east side, where the wall had most given way; it has hitherto weathered the storms, which sometimes beat with astonishing violence upon this exposed part of the coast; but there is great probability that the weight of the upper stories alone will ultimately occasion the walls to bulge above the top of the buttresses, and the light-house, and the fame of its architect, will together be laid low.

So little attention to convenience was paid by those who formed the plan of this edifice, that it was originally built with all the seven stories opening into each other; the staircase which communicated with the lanthorn at the top being carried up through all the apartments without even a door or any kind of partition to separate them; so that whoever had occasion to go up to the lamps was compelled to pass through every room in the building. The stairs which were *designed to have been* of stone, were begun so close to the outer wall, that when they had been completed to the height of about twelve feet, it was discovered that the conical shape of the building would not allow of their being carried up any higher;

so the remainder were made of wood, which were better than none at all; and at last *upon the representation* of the very ingenious old man who was engaged to take care of the light, the several stories were rendered habitable by being partitioned off with wainscot. Still, however, a great inconvenience remained, namely, that besides nine hundred gallons of oil annually consumed in the lamps, all the coal requisite for the stove, which is very considerable in quantity, must necessarily be carried up a narrow staircase, to the height of almost an hundred feet; for want of a small portion of mechanical contrivance by which that labour also might have been spared! Nor should it be omitted that if the windows, instead of being square, and of their present small size, in consequence of which the thickness of the walls prevents the rays of the sun from entering the apartments, had been made high and narrow, with arches over them, instead of having a single piece of stone laid across (in some instances too, resting not more than a quarter of an inch at each end upon the brick walls beneath) both more light would have been admitted, and the walls considerably strengthened and secured. Even incommodious as they are, the casements or sashes have been considerably improved, by being made to open inwardly instead of swinging upon a horizontal pivot, as they did at first, when they could never be shut without difficulty, nor be left open without danger.

So much for the construction of a light-house, erected by one of the most eminent architects in the kingdom (but it must be presumed not under the eye

of Mr. Wyatt) and at an expense so great that the proprietor has been heard to declare, that he burnt the bills for the work as soon as he had paid them; perhaps under the influence of some such feeling as that of Lewis XIV. of France, when he destroyed the accounts of the *thirty millions* laid out upon his palace of Versailles!

Over the chimney in the principal apartment is a tablet of the artificial stone, of Codes' invention, thus inscribed:

“For the direction and comfort of mariners, for the benefit and security of commerce, and for a lasting memorial of British hospitality; this light-house was erected by Thomas William Coke, Esq. of Holkham House, in the county of Norfolk; instead of the old light-house which originally stood five hundred and forty yards to the northward, and which by means of the land increasing from the violence of the sea, became useless to navigation. A. D. 1792, distant from the sea one hundred yards.”

It has been inferred from the above inscription, that the country was indebted to the generosity and munificence of Mr. Coke, for this same “*lasting memorial* of British hospitality!” but the fact is, that every ship which passes the light-house pays a certain sum for the benefit of it, which it is understood that Mr. Coke receives; and the total amount is so considerable that during the continuance of the property tax, this light-house was rated to the assessment at five hundred pounds *per annum*.

With whatsoever sensations the building and its numerous faults may be viewed, it contains at least one remarkable curiosity; a collection of beautiful

green-house plants in the lantern at the top, so that, as the facetious old fellow who keeps the light smartly observed, "you may see a myrtle ninety feet high, and growing taller every day!"

Besides a small fort at a little distance eastward of Dungeness, there is a station for the officers of the revenue, who have here, ready for being launched at a moment's warning, some very long, deep, and narrow boats, in which it is incredible with how much velocity they can dart across the Channel in pursuit of the smugglers. They have also very powerful and excellent telescopes, through which is kept a constant look out, upon the vessels in the Channel, and which enable them to discern even minute objects upon the heights near Sandgate and Folkstone, as well as in the opposite direction to Fairlight-Down, and Pevensey.

It has been remarked, that the military canal is interposed between the level of Romney Marsh and the foot of the hills northward. In shape, the Marsh may be considered as an irregular triangle, having this canal for its base.

There are numerous bridges over the canal ; but the principal entrances into the level are those near the western extremity of the town of Hythe, and at the Sluices south of Appledore.

CHAP. XXVII.

Appledore.—Rye Harbour and Town.—Winchelsea.

THE road from Lydd through Old Romney crosses the military canal, and turning towards the left hand, accompanies the course of that range of eminences, on one of which stands Lympne (before described) and on another Kenardington church. Below this latter are the remains of an ancient encampment north-east of Appledore, with a breast-work and small circular mount or barrow, attributed to the Danes, who in their wars with King Alfred sailed up the Rother, committed many depredations in the neighbourhood and ravaged Appledore, then a considerable town bordering upon the sea (which is now eight or ten miles distant), and the place itself reduced to a small village.

Pursuing this track, a narrow valley on the right appears to have formerly been the channel through which the Rother once flowed, and which reciprocally receiving the tides, was capable of admitting ships of considerable burthen; but the streamlets into which the current is now divided can scarcely be traced, losing themselves imperceptibly among the sands on the western border of the county of Kent.

THE HARBOUR OF RYE

had been so much damaged by the sea as to have become almost useless, but has been of late years considerably improved by a new dam constructed under the superintendence of a clergyman in the neighbourhood. Small vessels are still navigated through the narrow channels, but the muddy appearance of the harbour on the retreat of the tide is very offensive to the eye. The chief trade of this little port consists in an exchange with the opposite shore, of vegetables and fruit, the importation of coal, and other articles of home consumption; and the fishery is chiefly carried on by a colony of French refugees, who have been long settled here.

Rye was not originally one of the Cinque Ports; but, together with Winchelsea, was annexed to them before the reign of Henry III. The corporation consists of a Mayor and Jurats; and the election of members of Parliament, which commenced in the reign of Edward III. is vested in the freemen.

The church is spacious; and the form of its tower, and the cupola upon it, give Rye very much the appearance of a Flemish town.

King George I. was driven by a violent storm into this port, when on ship-board, with the intention of visiting his Hanoverian dominions.

The buildings of the town are in general old and very irregular. There are numerous Dissenters of various denominations in it, who have their respective places of worship; and one of the ruined churches,

formerly belonging to a priory of Augustine monks, has been converted into a store-house. In the middle of the town is a good market-house, and hall for the meetings of the corporation.

Rye was once fortified, and surrounded with a wall, which is reported to have been built in the reign of Edward III. One of the towers is still remaining, and converted into the town gaol.

The road from Rye to Winchelsea crosses low and level ground, which, extending far towards the south, presents a dreary shore intersected by ditches and drains. The now ruined castle which was built by Henry VIII. is seen on the left, the sea beyond it, the margin of the coast again decorated with Martello towers, and on a nearer approach to

WINCHELSEA,

a decayed gateway with its turrets, on the verge of a cliff, portions of old walls, fringed with ivy, and the remains of one of its churches, prepare the traveller for a union of venerable and picturesque objects in that ancient and once celebrated town. But, alas! how fallen! how changed!

Old Winchelsea probably never extended so far northward as the site of the present town, which was fortified and secured with a wall and gates, and annexed to the Cinque Ports by King Edward I. The former city had been previously destroyed by a tempest, and swallowed up by the sea, or covered with sand; and not a vestige of it remains. It is asserted, that it was so considerable as to have con-

tained no less than eighteen churches; which, as well as the rest of the buildings, fell a prey to "the devouring flood."

The new town, though not destroyed by the sea, was scarcely more fortunate, for it was devastated by invading enemies; and the sea, which by overflowing the old town had approached the walls of the new one, withdrawing itself soon after the French and Spaniards had laid waste the greater part of its buildings, it fell to decay, and presents little more than a skeleton in the rectilinear tracts of streets, the remains of capacious vaults, and dilapidated churches, here and there an old stone-built house, and the tottering fragments of walls and gates.

In the middle of a plain, which must by its elevation have once greatly increased the formidableness of the walls when viewed from the sea-shore, and certainly offered a most commanding site to the choice of its royal founder, stands that portion of the church of St. Thomas à Becket, which is now the only place of Divine worship remaining. Three low aisles, with barn-like roofs, being the ancient chancel, and just enough of the arch which formerly connected them with the body of the edifice, to afford some idea of its magnificence, are the whole of the building which escaped the ravages of the besiegers. They are finely overhung with ivy, and have presented an interesting subject to various artists; but the point of view from which most, if not all of the drawings have been taken, is by no means the most favourable for showing the building and its accompaniments to advantage.

On the eastern side of the extensive cemetery in which the church stands, is the rectory house, an old building of monastic appearance, with a high walled garden attached to it.

The principal inn stands at the north-east angle of the square or plain before mentioned ; and from the windows is a fine view of the sea. A decayed church, half hidden by lofty trees on the brow of the ascent, towards the south-western quarter of the town, has a very picturesque appearance ; but every thing here has an air of melancholy stillness.

CHAP. XXVIII.

Journey to Newenden.—Fairlight Down.

THE antiquary who remains long in this neighbourhood will probably be induced to make an excursion up the valley between Rye and Winchelsea, through Peasemarsch to Northiam and Newenden, where is a bridge over the Rother, which is there a considerable river, and occasionally overflows the fine meadows on each side to a great extent.

NEWENDEN,

now a small village, is situated on the eastern bank of the Rother, and supposed to have been the *Caer-Andred*, and ancient British city called *Anderida* by the Romans, and *Andread Ceaster* by the Saxons.

Camden thought that it was called the harbour *Anderia*, from the neighbouring forest *Andredswald*. *Caer-Andred* is said to have been destroyed about the year 491 by Ella the Saxon, who was invited by Hengist to invade the country; and he is reported to have massacred the inhabitants, and razed the walls. The exact spot upon which the ancient city stood is conjectured by the remains of lines of *cas-trametation*, which may still be traced, to have been at *Castle-Toll* between the Rother and Haydon-

Sewer, about one mile and a quarter from Newenden-street.

Hasted speaks of Roman coins found here. Plott, in 1693, *was told* that the mounts or tumuli, as well as the ditches, were then lower by four feet than when his informant first knew the spot. Of this, however, there may be some doubt, for not only a similar change might in such case naturally be expected to have taken place in the neighbouring grounds, if so extraordinary a circumstance had been occasioned by what is termed a *land slip*; but a progressive alteration would probably have followed during a century which has since elapsed, if it had been produced by a partial decomposition of the substrata, on which these works had been thrown up, or by the effects of time upon their interior structure, materials, or contents. Moreover Dr. Plott, although his name must always be mentioned with respect as amongst the fathers of topographical History, and applauded for a degree of zeal and perseverance scarcely ever exceeded, was in some instances more credulous than an historian ought to be, and thus incautiously admitted as facts some of the wildest vagaries of the imagination; which were often communicated to him for the purpose of throwing an air of ridicule over some of the graver parts of his writings; or, in modern phraseology, for the sake of a hoax! Witness the story of the eels described as emigrating from their native streams, and crossing the meadows in search of deeper water; and the apparitions and nocturnal visitations at Woodstock, which the learned Doctor implicitly be-

lieved to be the effect of supernatural agency, instead of the ingenious devices effected by the confederacy of *funny Joe* and his fellow collegians!

The manor of Newenden was formerly granted to the monks of Christ-Church, in Canterbury, “*ad pasca porcorum.*” In the reign of Edward I. a new town was built in place of the old one, which had been destroyed by the Saxons; and there was then a harbour, which at length decaying, the town was progressively diminished until it is become a small village. The church stands near the east end of the bridge over the Rother and upon a high bank, which owes at least part of its elevation to those sad relics of mortality, which have been for ages gradually accumulating around it. The interior offers nothing very remarkable, unless it be, that the communion table is not placed at the east end, but in a small side aisle, or recess, near the south-east corner of the building; and has another table apparently more ancient (but in the better preservation of the two) standing near it.

On the eastern bank of the Rother, very near the course of the stream, and within half a mile of the village of Newenden, is a chalybeate spring very strongly impregnated, and which, if rising in a neighbourhood more populous, or where the spirit of enterprise was more prevalent, would perhaps obtain reputation and celebrity, and might acquire as much credit as the holy well at Wye; and with full as much reason.

On the east and north-east of Newenden is that extensive woody track which is denominated the

weald of Kent, formerly a forest, in which it is said that wild boars, as well as fallow deer, were numerous. To this day, some of the woodlands remain in their original state, and Canterbury still maintains its celebrity for excellent *brawn*, although there are now no longer wild boars in the neighbourhood.

The soil is a clayey loam, fruitful, but unwholesome, on account of the superabundant moisture, and in some places softness of the ground.

The road from Winchelsea to

FAIRLIGHT DOWN

is irregular and hilly, passing through Guestling, the ancient patrimony of the Ashburnhams, which came to that family by marriage in the reign of King Henry VI. and has been constantly the residence of some of the branches of it, to the present time.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Laurence, has two aisles paved with brick, and contains monuments of the families of Ashburnham and Cheney. Sir William Ashburnham, Bart. and Lord Bishop of Chichester, is interred here, in the vault of his ancestors.

“ But why should Lords alone our praise engross?
Rise, honest Muse, and sing the *Man of Ross!* ”

Here also are deposited the remains of Robert Bradshaw, Rector of Peat and Guestling, who, having gained a prize of ten thousand pounds in the lottery, gave the tenth part of it to the corporation of Sons

of the Clergy, built a new house which he attached to the living (so that there are now two parsonages) founded a school, and left *fifteen pounds per annum*, to pay for medical attendance upon the sick poor in the parishes of Guestling, Peat, and Fairlight; the schoolmaster and the apothecary being annually chosen upon May-day, the former by the proprietor of Bromham House in the neighbourhood, and the Rector of Guestling; and the latter by the Rectors of the three above-mentioned parishes.

From the summit of Fairlight Down, the view, both of the sea and on the land side, is highly gratifying. A wall or cliff of chalk, similar to that which bounds the coast of Kent at Ramsgate, and near Dover, here presents its bosom to the waves, and dares the fury of the tempest.

To this part of the town, and especially to a cottage in the midst of the wood which skirts the eminence, and is interposed between the light-house and the town of Hastings, the visitors of the latter often resort in parties during the season of their abode upon the coast; and celebrity has been given to these sylvan shades by an amour which occasioned the place to be denominated the *Lovers' Seat*.

The road descends from the high lands, and meeting with the track which passes through Battle, turns towards the south, at about the distance of a mile and a half from Hastings, and enters that town at its eastern extremity.

CHAP. XXIX.

Hastings.—Battle.—The Abbey.

HASTINGS is said to have derived its name from a Dane, who landed here, and built a fort to protect his *subordinate* pirates. The town is situated in a fine valley, having the sea on the south, and being enclosed on every other side by lofty hills and craggy cliffs. The beach is remarkably fine; and consequently the water pure, and free from that unpleasant intermixture which the continual agitation of the waves occasions, by striking against the chalky rocks of the eastern coast. There are also beautiful walks and rides in the neighbourhood, leading to numerous objects highly interesting and worthy of attention. The air is soft, and the shelter which the neighbouring hills afford, moderates the violence of the wind, from whichever point it happen to blow; so that it is almost impossible to conceive a place upon the whole range of the English coast, better adapted by nature to the purpose of sea-bathing, or which unites more facilities of enjoying, together with that advantage, genteel amusements and rational association.

It has deservedly gained great repute as a watering-place, and every year increases the number of its visitors. Indeed there are few persons, of any class, who, having visited Hastings, can quit this

charming spot without regret,—who, when time and opportunity offer, will not be desirous of returning to it, or who will not be disposed to give it the preference before most of the towns upon the southern coast, for a summer residence.

In the reign of King Athelstan a mint was established at Hastings, by which is to be understood the ancient town, which has been long ago immersed deep in the sea, although the precise time when this calamity happened is now unknown. But it is generally admitted, that the sea is gaining upon the whole line of the coast westward of Pevensey; and even at Hastings it has been ascertained, that portions of the shore were formerly seen, from which the sea now never retreats.

About the year 1377 the town was destroyed by the French, but afterwards rebuilt, and divided into three parishes. There are, however, at present, only two churches, and these have been united into one rectory. They are both ancient edifices. In St. Clement's, or the lower church, are many old monuments, and the ceiling represents the celestial regions, having at the corners the figures of Faith, Hope, and Charity. In All-Saints, or the upper church, the pulpit cloth is formed out of the canopy which the Barons of the Cinque Ports had the honour of supporting over the head of Queen Anne, at her Majesty's coronation; which on that occasion becoming their fee, according to the ancient privilege of the ports, has been thus preserved.

The town-hall, with a market place under it, was built in 1700; and in the former is a shield bear-

ing the arms of France, which was taken from the gates of Quebec by General Murray, who, residing in the neighbourhood, and being one of the jurats of Hastings, presented this trophy to the town.

In the reign of Elizabeth the pier was demolished by a storm, since which, the landing-place has been called the Stade; and vessels of from fifty to a hundred tons burthen are worked up to it by means of a *capstan*, with surprising facility and expedition. Large beams of timber are still visible at low water, and many of the foundation stones of the old pier.

At the west end of the Stade is a small fort, mounting eleven twelve-pounders, which not only affords security in a military point of view; but a shelter from the violence of the waves, which sometimes beat with great fury against the neighbouring shore.

The fishery at Hastings is its principal trade; there having been, for many years, a progressive decline of the commerce formerly carried on with the straits. Herrings commonly appear on the coast about the beginning of November; and the season for them usually continues about six weeks. So immense is the number sometimes caught here, that *nine hundred pounds'* worth have been brought to land in a single day. Soles, skate, mackerel, gurnet, whiting, &c. are also taken in great abundance, and angling as a diversion may be practised here in its highest perfection.

There are many hands constantly employed in building boats and small coasting vessels; and in this occupation the inhabitants of Hastings have acquired considerable celebrity.

The markets are excellently supplied, and reasonable. The South-down mutton, so highly relished for its delicacy and flavour, is abundant. The soil in the neighbourhood is mostly a clayey loam; and wheat, barley, and oats, are its principal products. Considerable agricultural improvements have been made of late years; and large tracks of wood and waste ground have been recently brought into cultivation.

A gently rising shore, and fine sandy beach, render bathing perfectly safe and pleasant; and there are numerous machines, and very commodious baths, which will in all probability be multiplied exceedingly, in consequence of the increased resort of visitors to Hastings within the last four or five years. It was impossible to suppose, that the beauty and eligibility of such a situation could remain disregarded after a regular communication with the metropolis and interior parts of the island had been established, and modern improvements, and increased expedition in travelling concurred to invite the gay as well as the invalid to participate in the enjoyment of the rural scenery and marine advantages which this delightful spot in so eminent a degree possesses. Accordingly, no sooner was the signal given by a few persons of taste and fashion, than the quiet recesses of this once tranquil and sequestered spot were filled with an assemblage of gaiety and elegance; and crowds rushed with eagerness to a place which was before scarcely mentioned without contempt, or even known but by its name on the map.

Westward of the town are considerable remains of an ancient castle, containing within the walls an area of more than an acre. No certain record or tradition is preserved of its origin, but conjecture refers it to the period when the authority of the Romans had declined in Britain.

The principal event mentioned in history as connected with this edifice is that, in 1090, an assembly of the bishops and nobles of England was here held, to do homage to William Rufus, who had returned from Normandy and summoned them to meet at Hastings. On this occasion it was, that Archbishop Anselm consecrated Robert de Bloet Bishop of Lincoln, in the church of St. Mary the Virgin, which was within the walls of the castle. The church was collegiate, and its dean and canons, or prebendaries, enjoyed a peculiar and exempt jurisdiction; but were compelled to surrender their privileges to Henry VIII. who granted the college and deanery to Sir Anthony Brown.

In the time of Richard I. the age of religious enthusiasm and monastic glory, a priory was founded here, by Sir Walter Bricet, for black canons, of which some remains of the old walls may still be seen in the buildings belonging to a farm-house, situated on the west side of the Castle-Cliffs.

It is said, that upon draining a pond, some years ago, a large sluice and gates were discovered at the depth of thirty feet, which probably appertained to a reservoir belonging to this priory.

Fairlight-Downs, Broomham-Park, Pevensey, and the intermediate country, will attract the notice

of every visitor; and the romantic scenery of the neighbouring wood, and the cliffs of the shore, will equally engage attention.

The charter of Hastings was granted by King James II. but the town had been highly favoured by preceding sovereigns; nor will it be forgotten that, near this place, was fought that decisive battle which determined the fate of Britain; that here the power of England was subdued by the victorious arms of the Norman Conqueror, and the Saxon dynasty terminated by the death of Harold.

The view from the London road, near the entrance of the town, is extremely beautiful, commanding a wide range of sea, with Beachey-Head, Pevensey, and Bourne-Hills.

It is impossible to traverse a district so interesting to the feelings of an Englishman, as that on which his progenitors bravely shed their blood in a struggle, for the liberties of their country—*pro aris et focis*, without impressions of a most affecting nature. Cold and callous must be the heart of him who can recollect such a scene without emotion; and there are few travellers whose minds, imbued with congenial sentiments of patriotism, and whose attention has been directed to the subject of that important event which *these fields* so forcibly recall to the imagination, who will think of the distance of the way, or the paucity of objects upon the road, which conducts them to the spot called Beacon-Hill, on which the standard of the Conqueror first waved in triumph.

Near Pevensey, the Norman Duke and his fol-

lowers effected their landing; and, it may be presumed, without difficulty or resistance; and the decisive combat took place on the spot on which the foundation of a temple to the great PRESERVER of life was afterwards laid, as a memorial of the immolation of myriads; for, according to the most flattering accounts, the victorious army lost *fifteen thousand* men, and it may be presumed that, on the opposite side, there must have been proportionally a greater slaughter.

BATTLE

acquired its present appellation from the conflict which took place on the 14th of October, 1066, the birth-day of Harold, a circumstance which had given great but delusive confidence, to that monarch, who thought it ominous of success. The town had been previously called Epiton, and the plain adjoining to it, Headfield or Heathfield. The Conqueror erected, on the spot where the victory was gained, an abbey, which from the remains of it, now the seat of Sir Godfrey Webster, Bart. appears to have been very magnificent. The original foundation was endowed with many valuable privileges (especially that of sanctuary) and lands to a great amount; and its abbot had the honour of the mitre, and a seat in the supreme legislature of the kingdom. It is a remarkable circumstance, that at Battle, the weekly market continued to be held on Sunday, until the year 1600; but whether that practice had any reference to William's victory, or was to distinguish

the paramount and exclusive jurisdiction of the ecclesiastical establishment, to which the town had been rendered subservient, may be doubted.

An embattled gateway, at the entrance of the abbey, remains entire, with its towers, corbels, battlements, and portcullis; and standing at the end of the principal street of the town has a formidable and sullen grandeur of appearance, which the early Norman architecture is so peculiarly calculated to maintain. The building is spacious, part of it only belonging to the mansion-house; and the gateway before-mentioned appropriated to the use of the magistracy; but the whole fabric covers a great extent of ground, being nearly a mile in circumference, and the outer wall of great height and strength.

It is remarkable that, in the vicinity of this place may be traced, in the names of many of the inhabitants, strong proofs of their descent from the Saxons, and amongst them those of Harold and Harod, both, it is presumed, scions of the race of the vanquished monarch; thus, one while, elevated to the highest honours, and in turn melted down into the common mass of undistinguished plebeians. Dominion and command are gone; but the same royal and noble blood still warms the heart, inspires with the ardour of patriotism, and prompts to heroic deeds.

CHAP. XXX.

Penshurst.

THE train of thought which will probably arise upon a review of the historical relations respecting the neighbourhood of Battle, heightened by the surrounding objects which attest the truth of those relations, and stamp their impression upon the mind the more deeply, will properly prepare the traveller for a visit to

PENSHURST,

the once magnificent but now decayed mansion of the valorous, the witty, and the wise Sir Philip Sidney, and where also it happens that another name, less dear perhaps to courtiers, but in just such a degree the more highly esteemed by patriots—Algernon Sidney, is preserved with great veneration: this being also the birth-place of that renowned champion of liberty :

“ Unconquer'd Patriot ! formed by ancient lore
The love of ancient freedom to restore,
Who nobly acted what he boldly thought,
And seal'd by death, the lesson that he taught ! ”

It would be idle and impertinent to attempt an exordium upon a spot thus consecrated to virtue, to patriotism, to bravery, and the muses !

That it should be traced with fondness, and visited with enthusiasm, is creditable to the feelings of Englishmen. The name of Sir Philip Sidney, his elegance of manners, and greatness of mind, can never be forgotten, so long as honour and courage remain the national characteristics; nor will the fame of Algernon Sidney ever die, whilst the love of liberty has a place in the human heart.

Penshurst, or Pencester, was a royal present from King Edward VI. to his friend and companion Sir William Sidney, and gratitude induced his immediate descendant to endeavour to perpetuate the munificence of his sovereign, by the following inscription on a piece of white marble over the entrance gate, and immediately above the royal arms.

“The most religious and renowned Prince Edward VI. King of England, France, and Ireland, gave this House of Pencester, with the manors, lands, and appurtenances thereunto belonging, to his trusty and well-beloved servant Sir William Sydney, Knight Bannerett, serving him from the time of his birth, unto his coronation, in the offices of Chamberlain and Steward of his Household: in commemoration of which most worthy and famous King, Sir Henry Sydney, Knight of the most noble order of the Garter, Lord President of the Council in the Marches of Wales, son and heir of the aforesaid Sir William, caused this tower to be builded, and the arms of that most excellent Prince to be erected, A. D. 1588.”

The principal front of this edifice, which is built of stone, plain, irregular, and wholly unornamented, opens into a beautifully wooded park of upwards of four hundred acres, lately in part converted into hop grounds, and divided into distinct enclosures; but

still retaining enough of its original outline to convey an adequate idea of its former grandeur.

That part of the building which was contiguous to the grand gateway, on the left hand in approaching the house, has been entirely demolished, and the materials removed; but the foundations may be traced, and being added to the length of the correspondent wing, which still remains in tolerable preservation, give the total extent of this front at no less than eight hundred and fifty feet.

The mansion encloses a spacious court or quadrangle, to which the gateway before mentioned is the principal entrance; and crossing this quadrangle, an inner portal opens into the lobby communicating with the hall, from which it is divided by a sort of screen or partition of timber, richly ornamented with carving and pinnacles, armorial bearings, coronets, crests, and other devices, and having various openings resembling windows, in which are placed ten ancient wooden busts, rudely cut, of sovereigns and other distinguished personages, not originally intended for their present situation; but ornaments probably once thought appropriate for some other parts of the building. These figures, as well as the screen, were originally decorated with gilding and colours, but are now painted white, and have an effect almost approaching to the grotesque, if not ridiculous, when viewed amidst the solemnity of the massive screen become black with age and smoke. The hall is indeed a noble apartment, eighteen yards long by twelve and a quarter, paved with red tiles. In the centre is an elevated hearth,

saloon, a flight of steps leads to a closet or recess, which forms a private communication with the rest of the principal apartments. In front of it, and spread before it, is a kind of screen, covered with velvet and divided into five pannels or compartments, each having a large square of plate glass made to draw up like the window of a sedan-chair; and the frames and aforesaid covering most richly embroidered and decorated with mother of pearl, by the hands of Queen Elizabeth herself, who paid a visit here, and was entertained with *a masque* in this very room, her Majesty being seated within this fine enclosure. The next apartment is the Queen's Drawing-room, which contains the identical chairs presented and used by her Majesty when upon the visit alluded to. They are gorgeously ornamented, the frames richly carved and entirely gilt, the down cushions and stuffed backs in crimson silk damask, embroidered with gold, and altogether so heavy as not to be moved from their places without difficulty. A brass cabinet, or stand, inlaid with tortoiseshell, is covered with curious and valuable antiques collected by the late Mr. Perry, who, by his marriage with one of the descendants of the family of Sydney, became the proprietor of this mansion, and resided here. Some of the articles are from Herculaneum, and amongst the most remarkable (for they are by far too numerous to allow of a complete description) are, a skeleton modelled in wax, lying in a little cabinet of crystal, said to have been found amongst the relics supposed by the virtuosi to have belonged to Celsus, the famous surgeon and physician: and a petrified pheasant's nest.

The old tapestry which gives name to one of the rooms is transcendently beautiful, the colours the finest imaginable, as fresh as if only yesterday from the manufacturer, and far surpassing every thing of the kind which (without excepting the ingenious Miss Linwood's exhibition) is to be met with in England: the triumph of Cybele on one side, and on the other Juno with Neptune unlocking the portal of the winds.

The Page's room has a wainscoted ceiling in compartments. It contains a beautiful cabinet; and, like all the rest, is full of paintings, some by the first masters, and in fine preservation; others in bad condition, and very indifferent performances.

The gallery is a hundred feet long, with a recess and bow window peculiar to the age in which this house was erected: similar to one at Charlecott in Warwickshire, belonging to the ancient family of Lucy, immortalized by Shakspeare; and others of the same period. At the end is a very large family picture, with portraits of Mr. Perry, his lady and children, the heads of the house represented sitting with due formality, it may be said, in state, the old gentleman apparently infirm and gouty, the foot-stool not being forgotten—the eldest daughter remarkably beautiful, as is also her mother, and bearing a strong resemblance in features to the whole length portrait preserved here of Sir Philip Sydney.

In this gallery is also a large cabinet, beautifully ornamented with exquisite paintings in small compartments, and figures of brass gilt; said to have been a present from King James the First.

In the recess is a large table of *lapis lazuli*, inlaid with the arms of the Sydney family, in *ninety-five* quarterings, a fine satire on "the boast of heraldry," the weakest passion of the mind. It bears the name of Lamb. Cristian. Gori a Floren. A. D. 1753; and it was whispered that the artist, who has undoubtedly evinced great skill in the delicacy and elegance of the work, has more right to call it his own, than the person for whom it was originally made, with all his heraldic honours. In an adjoining closet, is a curious antique cradle of black wood, which is said to have belonged to George Villiers Duke of Buckingham.

The lower rooms are spacious, but not lofty; and an elegant modern staircase has been constructed, which leads to the apartments in domestic use.

On the front of the house next the road is a square piece of marble with the following title:

"Sir Henry Sydney, Knight of the most noble order of the Garter, Lorde President of Wales and the Marches of the same, and one of the Queene's Majesties most honourable privy council, and late Lord Deputie of the Realme of Irelande, 1579."

It may be presumed that this part of the building was erected by Sir Henry, although that circumstance is not expressed; but it is difficult to imagine why the bare enumeration of his titles should have been inscribed so conspicuously upon the house, unless that were the case. Nearly a similar inscription is still remaining upon the ruinous Castle of Ludlow, the residence also of the same courtly Sir Henry Sydney.

A long avenue of very lofty trees is remaining near the house; but the grounds are beautifully varied; and Penshurst is capable of being rendered fit for a royal residence.

Among the fine trees with which the park abounds, is the famous Penshurst Oak, celebrated by the Poet Waller, and said to have been planted on the day on which Sir Philip Sydney was born. It is now deprived of its branches by the desolating hand of time, but still retains a sort of melancholy preeminence; and though it no longer overtops the forest, there is something remarkably grand in the appearance of its gigantic but decaying trunk, which seems to claim that reverential respect which nature herself tells us is due to the hoary head. It measures twenty-two feet in girth, but has been hollowed out with great pains and labour, and an entrance cut in the side, so that eight or ten persons may seat themselves in it, commodiously, notwithstanding the rind or trunk is still of enormous thickness.

“ Once thy spreading boughs
 O’erhung the champaign, and the numerous flock
 That graz’d it, stood beneath that ample cope
 Uncrowded, yet safe shelter’d from the storm.
 Time was, when settling on thy trunk a fly
 Could shake thee to the root; and time has been
 When tempests could not! At thy firmest age
 Thou hadst within thy bole solid contents
 That might have ribb’d the sides and plank’d the deck
 Of some flagg’d Admiral, and tortuous arms,
 The shipwrights’ darling treasure, didst present
 To the four quarter’d winds robust and bold
 Warp’d into tough knee timber, many a load!”

COWPER.

Penshurst evidently derives its name from the neighbouring eminence, and its woody summit, on the border of the park; but the mansion itself was anciently and more appropriately called Pencester.

The church is a small but very neat building, situated close to the house, and is the burial place of several members of the distinguished and honourable family from which the estate descended, to its present worthy possessor, Mr. Shelley Sydney.

At Penshurst, resided the Lady Dorothy Sydney, Waller's Sacharissa. In the time of Edward I. it was part of the possessions of Stephen de Peneshurste, who was made Constable of Dover Castle, and Warden of the Cinque Ports, by Edward II. and in the succeeding reign was knighted, and four times elected Lord Mayor of London. From him it came by marriage to Sir John Devereux, who in the reign of Richard II. had permission to fortify and embattle this his mansion. On the attainder of Sir Ralph Vane in the fourth of Edward VI. it was forfeited to the crown, and afterwards bestowed upon Sir William Sydney, from whom it devolved to his son Henry, who having been educated at court, and from his infancy the favourite companion of the young king, attended him in his last moments, and on his decease retired to Penshurst. William Perry, Esq. the late proprietor, became possessed of the estate by marriage with Elizabeth Sydney, niece of the late Earl of Leicester; and by her it was left in the hands of trustees for her grandson, Mr. Shelley (younger brother of Sir John Shelley, of Castle-Goring in Sussex), who has since taken the ancient family name of Sydney.

After this short visit to Penshurst, quitting the retired and sylvan scene by which the house is surrounded, and ascending the hill on the north side of the park, an extensive view is presented over the neighbouring valley, commanding the windings of the river Medway, in its course to Eton or Eden bridge, situated in a small village which has been rendered remarkable on account of the extraordinary phenomenon which took place in the last century, when the water of a pond there became on a sudden, without rain or wind, or any other perceptible cause, violently agitated, and rose so high as to run over the brink of the pool; but soon afterwards reassumed its accustomed tranquillity. It was discovered that this singular occurrence happened at the very time of the great earthquake at Lisbon; and some few years afterwards a slight shock of an earthquake being felt in this village and the neighbouring district, an effect similar in its nature, but less violent in degree, was observed in the same pool. There is, however, no apparent difference between its water and that of the rest of the springs in the vicinity, which latter suffered no alteration on the before-mentioned occasions, nor is the pond of any unusual depth. Perhaps a careful examination of the strata in the neighbourhood might lead to at least a conjecture respecting the cause of so strange an effect!

CHAP. XXXI.

*Tunbridge-Wells.—Scenery.—Visitors.—Springs.
—Rides and Walks in the Vicinity.*

TUNBRIDGE-WELLS, to which, by rather a circuitous route (but it is hoped neither dreary nor unpleasant) the traveller is now supposed to be approaching, has long as a watering place established, by the efficacy of its chalybeate springs, a reputation so fair, and it might almost be said universal, that it requires neither panegyrist nor historian.

The situation of this renowned spring is most romantic; and nature has been profusely lavish in the scenery around, which is both unusual and interesting; so that, besides the inducement which valetudinarians may have to resort hither, for the benefit of the water, there are other attractions of the first order, which frequently exert their influence in bringing visitors to the spot. Thus it has been justly observed, that its easy distance from the metropolis (being only thirty-six miles) its central situation with regard to many other places of summer resort, and the accommodations for company, which, with a laudable spirit of emulation, have been rendered superior in almost every respect to the general condition of lodging and boarding-houses, have contributed nearly or perhaps quite as much to

recommend Tunbridge-Wells, as the efficacy of the springs themselves.

The situation is in a sandy valley on the south-eastern verge of the county of Kent, and near the Sussex border; and the several detached houses and assemblages of buildings which are included in the general appellation of Tunbridge-Wells occupy part of three parishes; Tunbridge, Frant, and Speldhurst. Besides the Wells properly so called, which are in the hollow of the narrowest part of the valley, the neighbouring eminences, which rise abruptly, and with romantic irregularity on either side, have offered situations for building so tempting, that to the distance of two or three miles around, rows of elegant or commodious houses have been constructed, for the accommodation of visitors. These are denominated either from the places of their site, or according to the whim of their respective proprietors, Mount-Sion, Mount-Ephraim, Mount-Pleasant, Nelson-Place, Trafalgar-Place, Wellington-Place, &c.; and generally speaking, they are finely shaded with trees, and scattered about with a very pleasing irregularity. The forest scenery around, and the diversity of objects which the several rides and walks present; the beautiful foliage of the trees, the luxuriant fertility of the cultivated part of the neighbouring district, and the serenity combined with cheerfulness which especially prevails here, are advantages which Tunbridge-Wells may justly boast.

The discovery of the *medicinal spring* is related to have been almost accidental. Dudley, Lord

North, a courtier in the reign of James I. being in a declining state of health, retired to Eridge (now the seat of the Earl of Abergavenny) about two miles distant; and on the south-eastern border of the track of waste land, in the midst of which the assemblage of buildings before-mentioned, as forming what in popular language is termed Tunbridge-Wells, has been since erected. Lord North was in his twenty-fourth year, and, as tradition says, was reduced to a state of dangerous weakness and emaciation, when it so happened that the benefit which he had sought in vain from the advice of physicians and the change of air, was afforded by the use of the Tunbridge water. Accidentally passing through the wood, which at that time enveloped the spring, the appearance of an unusual scum on the surface of the water excited his curiosity, and the taste and other circumstances rendering its mineral impregnation very evident, his Lordship diligently inquired into the probable effect of such a tonic in his own case; and a trial of it being recommended by his physicians, the perfect restoration of his health gave such a degree of celebrity to the place, that it soon came into great repute. Mr. Sprage, the author of the Local Guide, has made a long story of the simple fact, that Lord North had sufficient curiosity to taste the water, and to cause it to be examined by professional persons most likely to discover the nature of its contents; and amuses his readers with the very minute particulars of his Lordship's borrowing "*a little vessel* at a neighbouring hovel;" then he is puzzled to find whence came the bottles in which the water was

carried to London (for Lord North was upon his journey thither at the time of the discovery) but has no hesitation in informing us that the physicians "consulted upon its virtues" (before it could be known that it had any) exerted *all* their skill to discover the nature and properties of the water, *hastened* down to analyze it on the spot, and having done so, *hastened* back again; and in process of time (for notwithstanding all the panegyric bestowed upon it, it seems that my Lord did not return to drink of "the health-inspiring beverage," until the *next year*; and what became of his complaints in the interim, Mr. Sprage does not inform us) Lord North began a course of these waters, which so perfectly restored his health, that he attained his eighty-fifth year without any return of his disorder.

It is rather extraordinary that this Lord North, who was himself the author of a work entitled "The Forest of Varieties," in which is contained an account of Epsom Wells, should not have said one word respecting this so fortunate discovery at Tunbridge. However, the reputation of the water being once established, invalids resorted to them; and Lord Abergavenny, whose estate was contiguous, enclosed the spring at his own expense, and gave all possible encouragement to the endeavours of the inhabitants of the neighbourhood to provide accommodations for the company, which progressively increased until the town of Tunbridge, although nearly six miles from the spot, was crowded with the overflow of visitors.

As the celebrity of the waters increased, numerous publications appeared, descriptive of the contents,

which were repeatedly analyzed, and, according to the most correct and best authenticated experiments, found to consist of a large portion of iron, some marine salt, ochre, and calcareous earth held in solution by a volatile sulphureous acid. Lord Muskerry, son of the second Earl of Clancarty, who was killed in an engagement with the Dutch fleet in 1665, enclosed the springs with a wall, instead of the old railing placed around them by Lord Abergavenny; and also built a room to shelter the springs, and for the use of the company resorting to them.

The faculty of medicine as well as others began to direct their attention to the use of the Tunbridge water, and the result of various experiments, as well as directions for those who resort to the springs, are to be found in the several publications of the Drs. Shaw, Lamont, Pellet, Blanchard, Linden, Bevis, &c. Their efficacy has been attested by thousands, who have experienced the benefit of a discreet use of them, and by many who have got rid of imaginary diseases by the aid of cheerful company, and abstraction from care, business, and fatigue; who have attributed to the water the advantages thus derived from other sources.

In the year 1630, Henrietta Maria, Queen of Charles I. came hither soon after the birth of Prince Charles, and remained for six weeks "dwelling in tents," as the historian of Tunbridge expresses it, "on Bishops-down common." A public house on the road leading to Frant occupied the spot, where was formerly placed a stone with an inscription recording

the circumstances of the Queen having rested there after a long walk into Sussex; and the premises have been since converted into a private dwelling. In the tumultuous times which succeeded, Tunbridge maintained its reputation both with royalists and roundheads, and there was the same resort to it as before, by the idle and by the infirm; however, it is said that some distinctions were preserved between the respective parties, the royalists taking up their residence chiefly at Southborough, about two miles and an half from the wells on one side, and their opponents at Rusthall, one mile distant on the other.

Queen Catherine visited the wells after a fever, which had reduced her to a state of great weakness; and soon recovered. Then came James Duke of York and his Duchess, with the young Princesses Mary and Anne; and in 1688 the latter Princess paid a second visit, being then the consort of Prince George of Denmark. In 1698 her Royal Highness came again with the Duke of Gloucester, her son; and after a residence here, for some time, gave at her departure a sum of money to pave the walks (which were then in a very rough state, and the young Prince having met with a fall, is said to have given rise to this act of royal munificence); but when the Princess returned the next year, she found that the inhabitants had pocketed the money, and left the walks wholly disregarded, whereupon she quitted the place immediately in disgust, and never afterwards honoured Tunbridge-Wells with her presence.

Frederick Prince of Wales and his Princess visited the wells in 1739. Their daughter the Princess Amelia came hither frequently, and in 1762 passed great part of the summer here, with her brother, Prince William, Duke of Cumberland. The Dukes of York and Gloucester, brothers of our present Gracious Sovereign, also visited the spot in 1765; the Princess Sophia in 1793; the Duchess of Gloucester in 1794; and the Duke and Duchess of York, with his Serene Highness the Prince Stadtholder and his family, in 1795; since which period it has been several times encouraged, and dignified by the presence of royalty; and the number of persons of high rank and quality, who in summer resort to the springs, every year increases; so that their fame and fashionableness may be considered perfectly well established, without the assistance of a register of the cases of those who drink the water, which has been suggested as a *desideratum*, by the writer of the Tunbridge Guide, as an appropriate employment for a resident physician. He did not perhaps reflect upon the consequences of such a list! of recording the puerilities of the hypochondriacal, and the nauseating complaints of the vapourish, which probably constitute no inconsiderable proportion of the visitors of Tunbridge, as well as of other watering places. Still, these springs are of immense value in many points of view, not only medicinally but morally and politically; and not the less so for want of such a record of vanity, affectation, and folly. After all, perhaps to *complain of that want*, might be all that

the writer intended; without the remotest idea of such an undertaking as that to which it was convenient for him to allude.

In the traditionary records of the neighbourhood, a lamentable story is preserved of the atrocities committed by a gang of smugglers, about the year 1747, which are scarcely equalled even in the legends of romance. These desperadoes, not merely once, but to copy the words of the Tunbridge Guide, were "*used to ride*" into the town of Goudhurst, plunder the houses, violate the women, and *massacre every one* who made resistance. All trade, adds the re-lator, was at a stand (and if the above were true, well it might), many houses were shut up, and the inhabitants seldom ventured abroad *by day-light!* At length one William Sturt, a native of the town, who had belonged to Lieutenant-General Harrison's regiment, being discharged from the service, on his return home, heard of the proceedings of the smugglers, and full, no doubt, of that virtuous and pious energy which distinguishes disbanded soldiers, assembled his neighbours, and formed an association called the Goudhurst Band, who engaged themselves by an oath to obey Sturt as their leader, and resolved to defend the country from future atrocities. They were, however, betrayed into the hands of the smugglers, who then resolved to besiege the town in form. The relation proceeds to describe the activity and zeal of the Goudhurst Band, in collecting arms, "*good and bad;*" states that they were very valiant and very pious, and fought and prayed, and prayed

and fought, like Old Noll and his fanatical regiments, until after a severe and protracted contest, they killed *three* of the assailants, discomfited the remainder, and rescued the town—to the comfort of the inhabitants, their own immortal honour, and the disgrace of the magistracy of the county, who ought certainly to have spared them so much trouble!

Since these perilous times, Tunbridge-Wells and the surrounding district have remained secure, and in tranquillity. If there are any smugglers in the neighbourhood, they have left off the practice of plundering the houses and violating the women, who walk about *by day-light*, as well as afterwards, without molestation, and gallop through the wildest parts of the forest upon poneys and donkeys without any fear, besides that of an occasional fall.

The water of

THE SPRINGS

arises into, and is received by two marble basons, placed within an area, enclosed by a stone wall, at the end of two parallel walks, which are the general resort of company, during the season, which now begins in March or April, instead of May, and continues until the end of October.

One of the walks which was formerly laid with pantiles, was in 1793 paved with Purbeck stone, by subscription. A portico supported by slender pillars is a shelter from the rain, in front of the assembly-

rooms, libraries, and a range of shops for trinkets and jewellery; and on the opposite side a row of spreading elms affords an agreeable shade.

The water at the fountain head is perfectly clear and pellucid, sparkles and throws up air bubbles on being poured out of one vessel into another; has a very slight smell, but tastes strongly of iron; deposits a rusty sediment, and strikes a deep purple colour upon the addition of infusion of galls. It nearly resembles the waters of the Puhon spring at Aix la Chapelle, and is recommended as a tonic in chronic weaknesses and general debility. It possesses considerable power, and of course is capable of producing much good or much injury, according to the degree of propriety with which it is used, the diseases for which it is prescribed, the circumstances under which it is taken, and the habit, mode of life, and constitution of the patient.

To speak of doses, or lay down rules for the mode of drinking mineral waters, belongs to physicians, whose province it is to decide upon the cases in which they may be serviceable or otherwise. Although there is an old adage, that "at forty years of age, every man is either a fool or a physician;" and although there may be too much truth in the sarcasm of the wag, who said, that "many a man is both," it seems less dangerous to encounter the chance of meeting with such a union, than not to consult medical advice before an invalid risks the consequences of drinking Tunbridge water. Moreover it should be "remembered, that no two cases, no two constitutions are exactly alike; and that in

medicine, there can be no such thing as a universal law." Yet formerly, if not at present, the sick and the healthy, the robust and the infirm, the old and the young, the luxurious and the abstemious, the rosy votaries of Bacchus and the sleek and the pale Pythagorean, the disciples of system and the pretended followers of nature, all without exception, sally forth from their respective habitations, to quaff the nectar of these springs with as much eagerness as if they could confer immortality. The guides (as the old women are called who attend at the wells) are indeed content, at present, to offer a *small glass* of the water to strangers ("my little glass, I can not do without!") and to inform them that a quarter of a pint is sufficient for weak and delicate persons to begin with; but in former times, more copious draughts were recommended; and Doctor Rowzee, who wrote elaborately in favour of Tunbridge-Wells, had the modesty to prescribe *eighteen pints* for a morning's dose to some of his patients.

"Temperance and exercise are indispensably requisite to give the waters a chance of producing beneficial effects," observes a certain author; but luxury and excess first brought these springs into repute, have sent a constant succession of visitors to maintain their credit, and are still the principal support of the inhabitants of the neighbourhood.

A chapel was built by subscription at Tunbridge-Wells, and the clergyman derives a handsome but precarious income from the contribution of visitors in summer, and resident inhabitants in winter. Divine service is regularly performed every day during the

summer, and three times every week in the winter; and it is creditable to the *fashion* of the place, that the company resorting to the springs are generally regular in attendance at morning prayers. Adjoining the chapel is a charity school, supported also by subscription.

The principal trade carried on at Tunbridge-Wells is in turnery ware, consisting chiefly of various kinds of boxes and toys, of which incredible numbers are sold to the company, and sent to various parts of the kingdom, being executed with remarkable delicacy and ingenuity. They are principally made of cherry-tree, plum-tree, yew, box, and sycamore.

The celebrated Nash, afterwards better known by his title of King of Bath, once presided here as master of the ceremonies, and some of his laws are still in force.

The company, who usually on arrival first pay what is called "a welcome penny" to the dippers, taste the water at the fountain, and then subscribe to the libraries, coffee-house, assembly-rooms, band of music, and—*the clergyman*, in order to become entitled to a participation in the privileges and amusements of the place, assemble on the parade early in the morning, and after drinking water, and walking for an hour or two, retire, or more frequently form parties to breakfast. (Early rising therefore may be presumed a co-operative assistant to the wells, in their salubrious effect.) After this repast they attend at the chapel, then walk, ride, read, or saunter away the morning in the shops and coffee-houses, until dinner time. A band of music

performs in the orchestra close to the public walks, before breakfast, after Divine service, and again when dinner is over. The evening promenade then commences, from which the company adjourn to drink tea, visit the theatre, or go to the card assemblies, or the balls, which latter are usually very full, and brilliantly attended. There are also frequently concerts and *concert-breakfasts*; and occasionally public breakfasts, dinners, and tea-parties, with music and dancing, at the High Rocks, an assemblage of rude and romantic eminences surrounded with trees on the side of a crystal stream, about a mile and half southward of the wells. The amusements of the theatre would probably be more patronized if the habit of early rising, so beneficial to health, so advantageous when combined with proper exercise, and so well adapted to the genius of the place, did not, in general, dispose those who are induced to conform to the rules, to retire earlier in the evening than is consistent with the fashionable hours for theatrical amusements.

Another and a very appropriate employment for those who visit the wells, and are able to take exercise on horseback, is that of joining in the excursions, which it is usual to make to all the principal places in the vicinity, which, either upon account of their former or present state, are objects of rational curiosity.

SPELDHURST,

in which parish the Tunbridge springs arise, is the burial place of the family of Waller (but not of the

poet himself, who lies interred at Beaconsfield, in Buckinghamshire) and many very curious monuments of his ancestors were to be seen there, until a destructive fire in 1791 consumed the church, and by its intense heat even melted the bells.

HEVER,

about seven miles distant, is remarkable for its ancient castle, built by William de Hever, in the reign of King Edward III. and afterwards the seat of the Bullens, but forfeited to the crown on the attainder of the unfortunate Queen Anne, consort of Henry VIII. and her brother, Lord Rochford; and since granted to the family of Waldoe. Between Goadhurst and Cranbrook is a seat of the family of Beauclerc, and some time inhabited by the last Duke of St. Alban's.

SOMER HILL,

a stately mansion on a very elevated site about five miles from Tunbridge-Wells, originally belonged to the Earls of Hertford and Gloucester; but was bestowed by Queen Elizabeth (in whose reign it was probably rebuilt) upon her favourite minister, Sir Francis Walsingham, whose daughter Frances succeeded to the possession of it; and with her it successively passed into the hands of her three husbands, Sir Philip Sydney, the unfortunate Robert, Earl of Essex, and Richard de Burgh, Earl of Clanrickard and St. Alban's. Afterwards it de-

scended to Margaret Viscountess Purbeck, a lady who inherited with it the noble and generous spirit of her ancestors; and who, amongst other acts of munificence and benevolence, presented the ground on which the chapel of Tunbridge-Wells was built. Some entertaining anecdotes are preserved of the inhabitants of this mansion in Count Gramont's Memoirs; and of late years it was in the hands of the family of Woodgate, of Tunbridge.

BAYHALL,

a commodious house about three miles to the east of the wells, was formerly the property of the Colepepers, and subsequently of the Amhersts, is pleasantly situated in the midst of fine meadows.

BAYHAM ABBEY,

about six miles distant, originally belonging to the monks of the Premonstratensian Order (or White Friars) and its ruins occupying an extensive plain, present a fine display of rich gothic architecture, and many romantic views from different seats in the contiguous grounds: a branch of the Medway flowing close to the abbey, and most agreeably finishing the picture. A house in the gothic taste, at present the residence of the Marquis of Camden, excellently harmonizes with the scenery around, and increases the number of pleasing and interesting objects.

COURT LODGE,

near Lamberhurst, a seat of the Morlands, was once the residence of King Edward III. and on that account, as well as its modern improvements, justly claims the attention of travellers.

These are only a few of those interesting objects, which a morning's ride from Tunbridge-Wells will offer to the notice of the curious visitor; and the urbanity with which the respective noblemen and gentlemen to whom these domains severally belong, and the facility of access which they condescend to afford to those who avail themselves of the opportunity of visiting them, which is presented by a temporary residence in the neighbourhood, deserve to be mentioned with respect.

Before this short sketch of Tunbridge-Wells and its vicinity is closed, it is becoming to mention, that the inhabitants, in farther support of the claims of their celebrated springs, boast of unusual longevity; and it is reported, that in the little village of Horsmonden, the last four rectors enjoyed that living for more than two hundred years.

Amongst the immense number of visitors by whom, every summer, for many years, Tunbridge Wells and the neighbouring villages have been crowded, some of them have been already particularized on account of their distinguished rank; but there have been others so remarkable for their eccentricities, that they can scarcely be passed over without notice. An old Lady, who once presided

over all the amusements here, with the title of Belle Causy, was of this class. She was the leader of the company upon all occasions, directed their amusements, was the guide to all their parties, instructed them when to drink, and when to leave off drinking, when to dance, and when to sit still. From the chapel in the morning she conducted them to the raffles, the gaming tables, the libraries, the rides, the walks, the concerts, and the assemblies, in succession. They have also had two dwarfs here, who wonderfully contributed to the diversion of the company, by their wit and absurdity. One of them, a little deformed lump of affectation, who called himself Lord Rawlins, the Wells' cryer, and so much distinguished by his buffoonery, that the Duke of Wharton, who seems like some of our modern nobility to have had a strong *penchant* for the ridiculous, carried him to court; where, however, he seems to have had so many competitors of equal, if not superior talents, in his line, that he met with little attention! The other, a natural son of Sir Robert Walpole. A woman, too, but not a dwarf; a tall meagre figure, who was called Lady Tunbridge, contrived to pick up a living here, by her fantastical dress and quality airs; and, no doubt, many other persons who yet would not wish to find their names in such a catalogue, may have *played the fool* at Tunbridge Wells, and perhaps claimed the poetical licence:

“Dulce est desipere in loco!”

CHAP. XXXII.

Tunbridge Town. — Quarry-Hill. — Grammar-School. — Parish-Church. — Hop-Grounds. — Mereworth-Castle.

BETWEEN Tunbridge-Wells and Tunbridge town, after ascending the hill which has acquired for that part of it which is nearest the wells, the title of Mount-Ephraim at Nonsuch Green, crossing the road from Pembury Wood to Speldhurst, Great Bounds, the property and residence of the Dowager Countess of Darnley, a neat gothic building, sheltered by fine thriving plantations, presents an interesting object on the left, whilst in an opposite direction the eye wanders over a beautiful variety of cultivated fields interspersed with meadows and woodland, to the mansion at Somer-Hill on a commanding eminence.

One mile and a half from Tunbridge, the descent of Quarry-Hill, with a beautiful wood on the left, a neat cottage residence connected with the military establishment or depot in the neighbourhood, occupying a gentle eminence by the side of the road, and surrounded with its trim, spruce pretty garden, the buildings of Tunbridge, the turreted entrance of its old castle, and the rich valley, through which the Medway gently flows in full view, may be reckoned amongst the finest landscapes in this part of the country.

TUNBRIDGE

derives its name from its bridge or bridges over the river Medway, which, rising in the wealds of Sussex, is divided into three streams, as it runs north-eastwardly towards Maidstone, and at Tunbridge intersects the lower part of the town. Near its bank are the remains of the ancient castle, built in the reign of William Rufus, and the scene of many events recorded in history, but now fitted up and modernized for the residence of the proprietor of a neighbouring estate; retaining nothing very remarkable besides the round towers at its principal entrance, and part of the outer walls.

Tunbridge once sent members to parliament; and of late years has derived considerable advantage from the resort of company to the wells, as well as from the circumstance of the road through the town having become the principal road to Hastings and the neighbouring coast. It is remarkable, that a spring strongly impregnated with iron, and in no respect different from those called the Wells, has been well known for ages in the immediate vicinity of the town. It rises in an orchard on the left hand side of the road to Tunbridge-Wells, about half a mile from the course of the Medway; and was formerly resorted to by many more persons than at present pay any regard to it, so completely has its neighbouring rival eclipsed its fame. It is still, however, occasionally used by the native inhabitants, and some schemes have been proposed for endeavouring to

bring it into general notice; but for want of sufficient encouragement, they have been hitherto delayed. No situation can be imagined better calculated for the erection of lodging houses than the neighbourhood of this spot; which might be made to combine all the tranquillity desirable by invalids, with the animation and convenience of a populous town; roads much more commodious for carriages than those at Tunbridge-Wells; and in a word, such accommodations as would probably soon obtain a decided preference for this spring, over its, at present, more fashionable neighbours.

At Tunbridge is a famous grammar-school, founded by Sir Andrew Judd, Lord Mayor of London, in 1551; an institution which has proved highly beneficial to the community by the number of excellent scholars educated at this very respectable seminary, and has been remarkably distinguished by the learning and talents of many of those who have been called to the superintendence of it; advantages which may be ascribed to the judicious selection made by the governors and their conscientious regard for the interests of the establishment manifested by regular annual invitations of the school, and the distribution of rewards for the encouragement of superior merit.

THE PARISH CHURCH

is remarkably spacious, and contains very numerous monuments and tablets.

The market being thinly attended, it has been

found convenient to hold it every alternate Friday, since which there has been a considerable increase of business. The manufactory of gunpowder having been introduced into the neighbourhood, was during the late war carried on upon a large scale.

The buildings of the town of Tunbridge are irregular, but many habitations of respectable appearance are interspersed amongst others of inferior condition; and the population has increased very considerably of late years, insomuch that it may be termed a flourishing and prosperous place.

Hops are cultivated in great abundance throughout the whole of the district between Tunbridge and Maidstone; and not only their appearance whilst growing is exceedingly beautiful, but they are undoubtedly of great importance in a commercial point of view; and if any judgment may be formed from appearances, rapidly increase the wealth of the planters. They also give employment to thousands of both sexes, not only in gathering the crops, but in preparing the ground, cutting the poles, &c. Hops begin to be productive in the second year after being planted; and it is reckoned a fair crop in this part of Kent, when they produce a load per acre, which is perhaps about a ton. A pocket of hops weighs usually about one hundred weight and a quarter. Great care is necessary in drying them. Sulphur is used, in order, it is said, to preserve or improve their colour; and coke is usually employed in the kilns for drying them. The land near Tunbridge is better than at the wells, where it is sandy and poor; but abounds with violets, primroses, and other spring

flowers growing wild, to a greater degree than almost any other part of the island.

It improves on approaching Maidstone; and in the vicinity of the last named town, no tint can be conceived more delightful to the eye, than the beautiful verdure of the fields.

MEREWORTH-CASTLE,

situated in a village of the same name, about the midway between Tunbridge and Maidstone, is an elegant fabric erected by the Earl of Westmoreland, from a design of Colin Campbell, in imitation of Palladio. It stands on a rising ground near a small stream meandering within view of the principal front, and at length joining the Medway, and is surrounded by irregular swells well planted and neatly kept; but the mansion appears to be falling into neglect and decay. The house is a cube of eighty-eight feet with a cupola, in the shell of which the funnels of the chimneys are concealed, so that the smoke is carried off imperceptibly, without offending the Italian style of the building, by the heavy, inappropriate English stack of chimneys; or destroying the symmetry of the dome. In the centre of each front is a portico; and the stables and domestic offices form extensive wings.

Mereworth is now a poor village; but remarkable for this elegant seat, and also for an equally elegant church, erected in the last century on the site of an ancient and decayed structure, which is said to have been built by one of the Earls of Clare, and appro-

priated to the Knights Templars, of whom several old monuments, with recumbent figures cross-legged, are carefully preserved in the new church, to which they were removed on the demolition of the ancient building.

The road by way of Maidstone and Rochester will afford to the traveller an opportunity of completing his circuit of the principal part of Kent, between the course of the Medway on the west, and the natural boundary of the coast : but there are two other tracks which branch off about two miles from West-Malling, one of them through Igtham and Westerham, the other through Wrotham, Foot's Cray, and Lewisham, where it falls in with the road from Tunbridge, through Seven Oaks and Bromley, both of which are replete with objects deserving of notice.

CHAP. XXXIII.

*Maidstone.—Malden.—Knowle.—Seven-Oaks.—
Road to London.*

MAIDSTONE is a town of so much importance in its modern day, and which makes so conspicuous a figure in the map and the road-book, that it would be impertinent to multiply the descriptions of which it may be presumed almost every traveller, and almost every reader, is already in possession. It will be sufficient in this place to point out the peculiar beauty of its situation, in the midst of a district the most delightfully verdant that imagination can conceive, with advantages of site and elevation scarcely equalled, with a fine river navigable for vessels of sixty tons burthen,—streets well paved and spacious,—one of the most capacious parochial churches in the kingdom, barracks evincing a degree of taste and elegance,—both with regard to structure and situation, unexampled in this barrack-building country ;—and, it is painful to add, a prison which may vie with the tremendous Bastile in massive strength, and, alas ! full of wretched tenantry.

At about a mile distant from the town, upon the bank of the Medway, stands Allington Castle, a small square, castellated mansion, with round towers at the angles, which would be highly picturesque, but for the modern tiled roof of the buildings contiguous. It was formerly the seat of the Wyats, one

of whom was a distinguished courtier in the reign of King Henry VIII.

A house of public entertainment, called Gibraltar, nearly opposite to the castle, is the common resort of the inhabitants of Maidstone and its vicinity; and there is a delightful walk through the fine smooth meadows which border the river, passing in front of the barracks, and affording a most agreeable view of that elegant structure.

There is a considerable linen manufactory at Maidstone, originally established by French refugees, who escaped hither from the persecution of the Duke of Alva in the Netherlands, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; and still carried on with great spirit and industry.

Formerly there was a convent of Grey Friars, of which considerable fragments are remaining, near the church, which also probably belonged to that establishment.

The Medway abounds with excellent fish; and one of the tributary streams, falling into it near Maidstone, is particularly noted for pike of a large size.

MALDEN,

with its ruined prison, reported to have belonged to the ancient abbey, is indebted to Gundulph, Bishop of Rochester, for the only other interesting object which it contains,—the fine gothic tower of the church. The same generous and munificent prelate also laid the foundation of a convent for Benedictine Nuns,

the site of which is now occupied by the mansion of Sir John Honeywood, Bart.

At Wrotham the church is an object of curiosity; and at Ightam, is the tomb of Sir Thomas Cawne, and other ancient monuments.

The modern mansion of Foot's Cray, built for the late Bouchier Cleeve, Esq. in the Italian style, is beautiful, as well as magnificent, and will induce a comparison between the heavy buildings of the fifteenth century and the refined elegance of later times.

KNOWLE,

which stands on the direct road from Tunbridge, has been abundantly celebrated. Its grey oaks and fine park are very striking; but the house, though spacious, wants elevation both of site and design: and even with all due allowances for the acknowledged bad taste of the times in which it was built, must be viewed to a great disadvantage, after having lately visited the august remains of Penshurst.

In the neighbouring church of

SEVEN-OAKS,

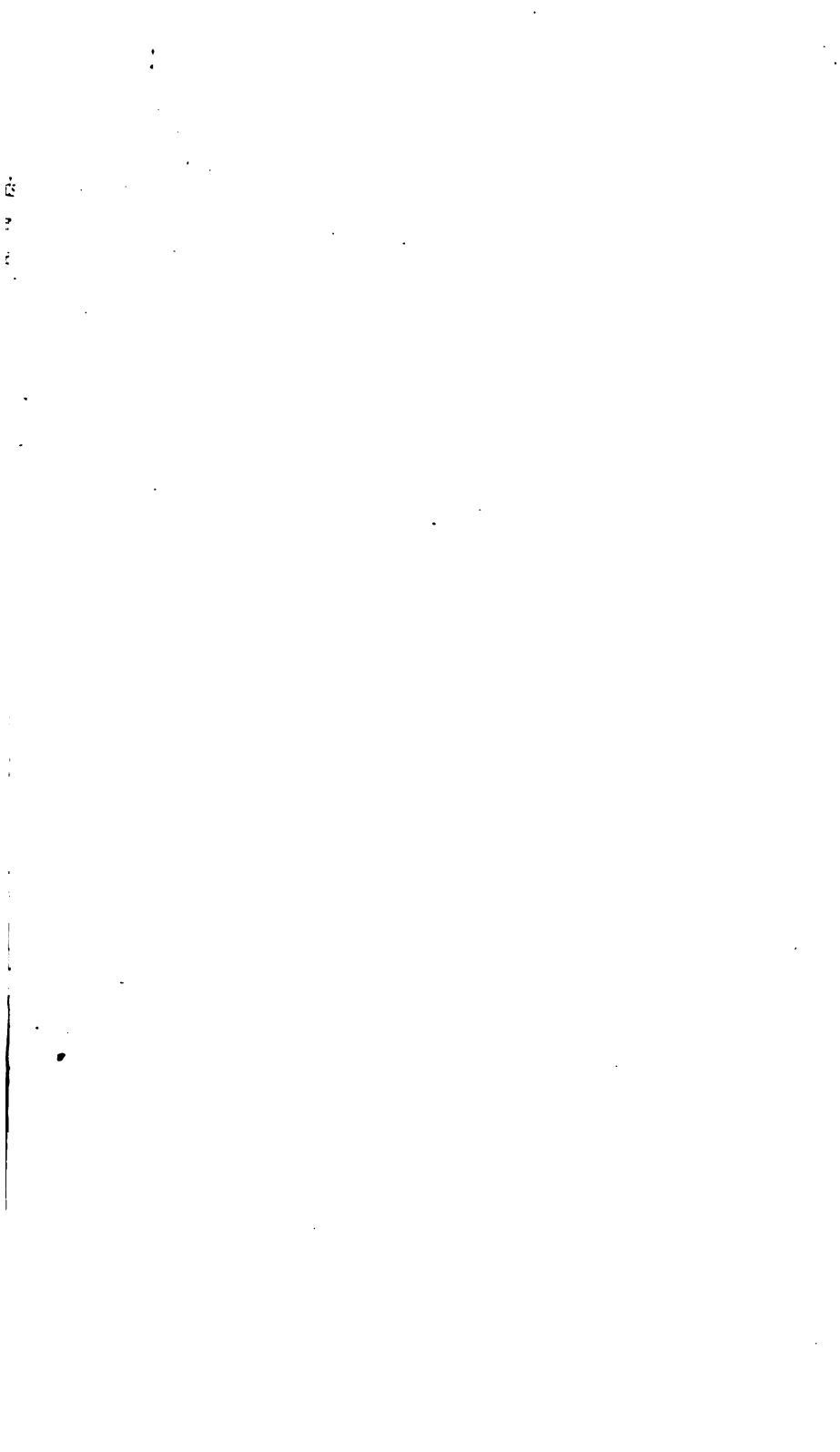
in which many travellers have been disappointed, by not finding the ducal mausoleum of the Sackville family, is an elegant marble tablet inscribed to the memory of the late distinguished and gallant Lord Amherst, and other sepulchral memorials of less imposing magnificence of appearance.

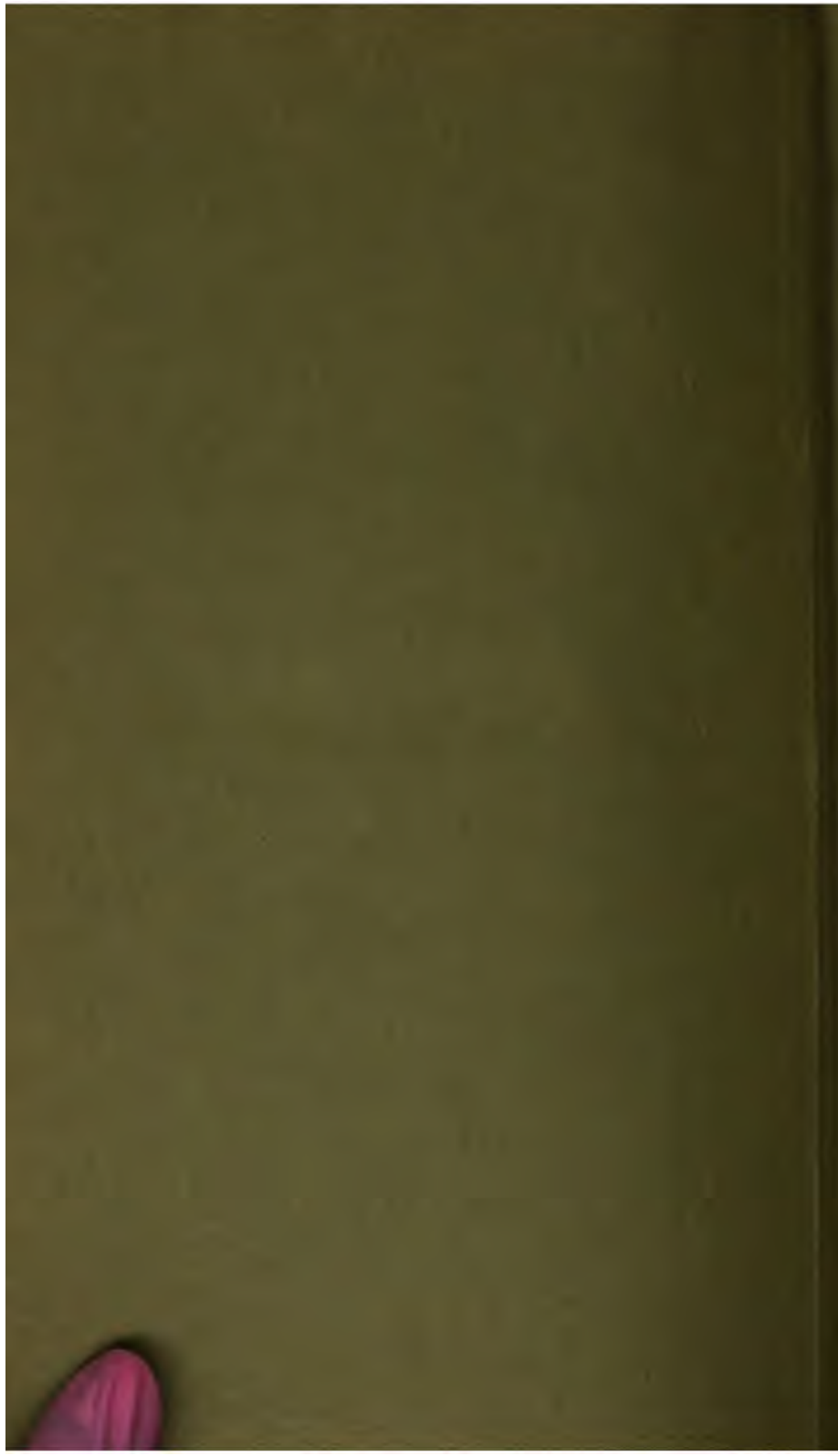
The town, neat and thriving, with beautiful fields and woodland in its vicinity ; and the road soon after, having passed through it, commanding a view of the grounds at Montreal, the seat of the Amhersts.

The prospect from Madamscot Hill, over London and Greenwich, has been too often described to require additional remarks. It is probably the last spot on which the traveller will, merely for the sake of a prospect, be induced to pause, until he reaches the metropolis.

The roads within the distance of eight or ten miles from London, are usually so much crowded with carriages and passengers, that many of the surrounding objects, highly interesting, and capable of affording much gratification to the contemplative traveller, are often overlooked from accident, or left unobserved by choice, in the expectation of future opportunities of examining them with becoming attention, or under circumstances more favourable for their inspection. Thus it is that what is most familiar, is often the least known ; and that distant and remote situations are commonly explored with more attention, and described with more accuracy, than those which are continually before our eyes. So also it is that habits of procrastination increase in proportion as they are indulged ; indifference degenerates into neglect, and carelessness into insensibility ; till length of years effaces curiosity, and indolence and old age shut up the volume of instruction.

THE END.





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